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E G Y P T,

AND

M E H E M E T A L I.

BY

PRINCE PUCKLER MUSKAU.

VOL. III.

L O N D O N :

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E G Y P T,
AND
M E H E M E T A L I.

CHAPTER I.

A RIDE THROUGH THE DESERT TO DONGOLA,
(*continuation.*)

TEMPLE OF PHTUR, HASSIR, DONGOLA.

THE antiquities of Sedenga are unimportant. One column alone of the old temple is still standing entire amid a heap of ruins, and all the fallen carved-work, even the column itself, betrays a more modern, probably a Roman style of architecture. A little farther on are to be seen the ruins of a second temple, with the bases of two columns all cut from the common chalk

stone, and of an equally inferior character of work.

Quite the reverse is the case with the great temple of Phtur, a work of the Pharaohs, and still wonderful in the vastness of its destruction. It is situate four miles from here, on the other side of the *Dschebel Dosch* chain of hills, which divides the province of *Solkvi* from that of *Mahass*. Opposite to this temple, on a beautiful heath near the river, we had pitched our tents.

We put off the inspection of this magnificent ruin, till the evening, and were just about to seat ourselves at the dinner table, when one of the inhabitants of the neighbouring village, whose people evinced equal readiness with those of Dal to provide us with everything we required, came running to announce that some hundred paces from where we were, a river-horse was to be seen in the water, which for some time past had remained in the neighbourhood. We hastened thither with all possible expedition and immediately perceived the enormous head of the monster, like a black rock, rising from the stream without making, for a considerable time, the slightest movement.—In the mean time the dinner-table was brought by my orders, and we established our-

selves comfortably upon the banks beside the remains of an ancient mole of the old town of *Phtur*, beneath a lofty tree ; behind us the colonnades of a Rhamesian temple palace ; before us in the river a natural comedy performed by one of the oddest emanations of creative caprice. Welcome additions to this interesting scene were the lofty mountains in the distance, the graceful serpentinings of the river, the dark ridges of rocks with little silvery water-falls between them, and on the opposite side green banks, with a great flint-stone castle in the midst of a date wood, altogether forming one of the most lovely landscapes our journey had as yet afforded. The river-horse remained for some time on the spot he had selected, and amused us by his varied evolutions, now rising more now less from the water, until having reached a sand reef he suddenly emerged *in toto*, and as a sort of farewell present, permitted us for a moment to admire his whole gigantic structure. He vanished beneath the waves however almost as suddenly as he had appeared, and only again came to view at a considerable distance, and then but for a few seconds and finally descending to his crystal palace, no longer exhibited himself to our admiring gaze. Twelve of the villagers

mostly young men and boys with but two old men and three girls, all naked to their shirts, had planted themselves near us, and seemed equally entertained by the *manœuvres* of the hippopotamus. Sometimes they would spring into the stream and swim towards him, endeavouring to excite the rage of the phlegmatic brute, whilst their comrades on the bank assisted them by their shouts, like their countrymen at the eclipse the preceding day. Whenever their eyes were not fixed upon the monster, they directed their attention exclusively to ourselves. They gazed with astonishment on our telescope, enthusiastically admired an inlaid mother-of-pearl-handled knife of the Doctor's, and became, like regular South Sea islanders, half mad with delight, when I had a small mirror brought to them, the like whereof they seemed never to have beheld before. It was remarkable that the young men displayed far more vanity and pleasure in surveying their own persons than the girls. Almost all of them wore a species of rosary of glass beads round the neck or arm, from which a leather bag containing an amulet was suspended. These the Faki, their learned men, make them pay heavily for writing. Some of the boys wore also pewter ear-rings and the girls coloured beads

around their neck and arms. To these last I gave some false Parisian jewellery, as also to the boys who had given us assistance by bringing us water or rendered us other services, some rings of the same kind, which they received with delight and gratitude, nevertheless with a sort of becoming gravity.

In order to learn something more of the state of their morals, I gave a youth who had contrived to inform us that the prettiest of the girls present was his sister, by signs to understand, that I wished him to send her alone in the evening to our tents, and pantomimically expressed the idea of sleep.

He and the girl laughed ; however, he immediately took off the ring I had given him from his finger, and I already expected that he was about to return it with indignation, when he held it up, and with the ingenuity of one deaf and dumb, expressed the intent, that if I would give him another of the same kind, his sister would come to me. Outrageously virtuous then, according to our notions, these children of nature do not seem to be, and to a missionary this would have been a capital opportunity for a sermon.

The two old people were queer looking origi-

nals. One had a gold Egyptian coin, wrapped up in paper in his hand, and renewed his attempts every five minutes, of exchanging this piece of money, which he probably thought base metal, with us for silver piastres. The other bore a couple of home-made pieces of linen upon his head, and persisted with equally indomitable perseverance, in trying to sell them to us, and all this with such gentleness, patience, politeness, and the diplomatic gravity of ambassadors treating for the annexation of a province, that at length we could resist no longer, and allowed both coin and linen to be forced upon us. Some of the crowd spoke a little Arabic, which greatly facilitated our conversation, and we parted shortly before sunset, on the most friendly terms with old and young ; the more so as we left the coin and linen, although paid for, as presents behind us. This linen, by the way, formerly, cut into long strips, passed as money in the land of the *Barabras*, and as far down as the *Sudan*. Now, however, on pain of decapitation, the government currency must every where be taken at its nominal value. Without this apparent severity, the natives could never have been brought to use it. As a palpable instance of the careless indolence of these savages, I must

relate the following circumstances. They informed us, that the same river-horse we had seen, did them an immense deal of injury ; for when he landed in the night-time, to supply himself with food, he usually devoured three or four *feddan* of corn at a time.

“ Why, then, do you not hunt the beast ? ” inquired I.

“ Yes, we thought of doing so,” was the reply ; “ and we sent on that account to a man in Quadi-Halsa, *who is accustomed to such sport*, to tell him that a river-horse was staying here. He sent back word, that as soon as he could procure a harpoon he would come.”

This was word for word interpreted to us by an Egyptian soldier. Since they applied to the hunter, nearly a month had gone by, and the river-horse in the mean time had destroyed some forty *feddan* ; nevertheless, no one had had the resolution to commence the hunt, although there was no want of weapons and fire-arms, and there was actually a troop of Negro soldiers encamped within a mile of the place, so that nothing could have been easier than at once to put a stop to his ravages. From the same inherent laziness here, as along the whole river, nobody thinks of turning its stores of fish to account ; and since

we left Assuan, these savoury inmates of the deep have altogether disappeared from our table, we having unfortunately taken neither rods nor nets along with us.

In the cool of the evening we strolled towards the temple, whose columns, built of red-striped hard sandstone, pertain to the lightest and most elegant style of Egyptian architecture. There were about seventy of them, of which scarcely a third part, and even of these not more than ten in full proportion, remain standing. As we find upon them the rings of Sesostris, as well as those of many of the elder Pharaohs, we cannot doubt but that this edifice belongs to that era, and that its destruction is to be ascribed either to an earthquake, or to the giving way of the flint-stone foundation. With a spacious court, in which sundry mutilated Sphynxes are yet to be found, and the remains of a magnificent staircase, of fifty-seven feet in breadth, the building would seem to have consisted of three principal halls, with columns of various form and decoration. As very little of the fallen materials have been removed for other purposes, it is difficult to climb over the enormous heaps of ruins which fill every portion of the temple. We here disturbed an hyæna, which immediately crept again

beneath the stone-work; and as we did not perceive her escape, we concluded that she inhabited furnished apartments in the spot to which she had retreated before us.

The temple has been carefully measured, and otherwise particularly described by other travellers; as, however, it contains a great number of hitherto undecyphered hieroglyphics and peculiar sculpturings, it is a pity that as yet no one, with the erudition of Champollion, has more carefully examined it, as doubtless it is capable of giving a key to many historical mysteries. The basis of many of the columns are surrounded by rows of figures, representing prisoners with their hands tied behind their backs, the lower part of whose bodies are invariably covered by a species of coat-of-arms. Upon these, according to Waddington, the names of conquered towns and provinces are inscribed, and the figures themselves, which appear without exception to be inhabitants of *northern* countries, wear mostly head-dresses which either resemble the Persian cap, or the modern Egyptian tarbusch. The carving is highly finished, and quite in the grand and simple style of the very best period. The same may be said of the friezes, capitals and other decorations which

often approach the elegance of the Grecian school, as indeed the temple altogether is somewhat deficient in the massy and gloomy solemnity of other Egyptian temples of the same period. The first and largest hall measures 88 feet in length, 103 in breadth, the columns 5 feet 7 inches in diameter, and not above 40 feet in height.

The two other halls grow gradually narrower, and behind them, surrounded by twelve columns, was the *Adytum*, or holy of holies. As the statue of Jupiter Ammon several times occurs, it is to be conjectured that to him the temple was dedicated. We also remark carvings of owls and vultures, and one of Apis himself.

The ruin in its full extent, bordering upon a palm-wood on the edge of the desert, and the mud huts of the village of Solib, belongs unquestionably, from the rosy colouring of the stone and the artistic disposition of its fallen masses, to the most beautiful in Nubia, and must leave an impression not easily to be effaced upon the mind of every traveller who at all knows how to value things of such a nature.

On account of a great bend towards the east, which the river takes at Solib, we were com-

pelled in the following night to cut across the desert, a distance of eight German miles, (about 40 English) It chanced that in order to find a fitting spot for repose, protected from the cold blasts of the wind, we took a different road from that of the caravan. This was probably the means of saving the life of a sailor belonging to the boat, which accompanied the caravan, for falling asleep upon his camel, he had gradually and unobserved lost sight of it, and we overtook him, just as in the greatest anxiety he had chosen the false direction towards the interior of the desert. Losing your way here, is a serious matter, and not a year passes without Government couriers or other solitary travellers disappearing in the desert and never more being heard of. The rapidity and endurance with which these couriers effect the longest journeys on such inconvenient steeds, and in such terrible heat, is almost incredible. We often found them at night in the fearful loneliness of these deserts, alone beside their dromedaries, bedded on the sand, the reins twisted round their wrists that man and beast might enjoy a few hours of refreshing repose from their fatigues.

It was nine o'clock, and the sun began to

shine with great intensity, when we reached Fakir Bint, where the former Governor of Dongola has piously founded a mosque and a khan, where every traveller receives without payment lodging and cool water. To secure the latter are used the porous jars, which are manufactured in Khene, a truly invaluable assistance in these countries; and as they are not always to be obtained, every traveller will do well to provide himself with as large a quantity of them as convenient. The warmest water, if exposed in them to a draught of air, becomes cool, and at night ice cold. After a week or a fortnight, however, the pores get stopped up, and the jar no longer renders the same service; these vessels are besides so fragile that the slightest knock chips or entirely smashes them; in the hand they weigh as light as a feather. It is true that in many countries there are vessels with similar properties, but none which I have seen are to compare with the jars of Khene. Thanks to them, wherever we repose beside the Nile, even in the hottest days, cool water never fails us.

The benevolent builder of the Khan had also planted trees before it, which already spread wide crowns about their heads; and beneath their shady domes we took up our temporary

abode close to the river, which here again was interspersed with rocks. Soon after our arrival the Nazir of the village visited me with a few followers. He was a native of the place, and one of the most respected proprietors of the neighbourhood ; of gentle prepossessing address and quick comprehension ; in which the Arabs in general much distinguish themselves from the Europeans of the subordinate ranks.

I took this opportunity to make different inquiries of this worthy man, with the view of getting information as to the relations of the subjects and the government, which I subsequently found confirmed by all well-informed and unprejudiced persons. They sound in truth rather different from the accusations of many travellers, although my informant was, as a large landowner, himself a deeply interested party, and whilst praising, by no means forgot to blame. I shall have frequent opportunities of recurring to this subject.

The next station is Hassir, and the distance does not exceed thirty English miles. We were not more than half way before the certainly much-neglected plains of Dongola began gradually to stretch themselves out before us. We found there almost as much uncultivated

as cultivated land, because a raging epidemic had, in the previous year, destroyed great numbers of the natives. Here emigrations to the Darfur are frequent, where rules an enterprising Sultan, who is favourable to stranger colonists, and whose territories are daily on the increase ; and were described by some slave dealers, I entered into conversation with, as a paradise of plenty and comfort. On the deserted fields fresh wide-spread mimosa thickets have sprung up, and the poison tree exhibits here some of its choicest specimens. Antelopes are plentiful amid these bushes. We also saw many partridges of a larger description than our own, and small birds of brilliant plumage frequently flutter around us.

Hassir, which lies about an hour's ride from the Nile, betrayed, by better houses, more careful cultivation and a certain more civilized style about the inhabitants, as well as by the presence of Egyptian officers with a detachment of thirty men, the proximity of the capital. Here too the Kascheff was a man of education and no Turk, but a native. In Hassir the white ants, the all-destroying *thermites*, commence their ravages. Books especially they are so fond of, that they are capable of devouring a

whole folio in a single night, of which I myself subsequently saw an instance at Doctor Iken's in Dongola. The villagers immediately brought several *engarebs*, a kind of sofa of an antique shape, on which they invited us to place our boxes and other possessions, as whatever remained upon the ground would, during the night, become the prey of the ants.

These *engarebs* are pieces of furniture as lasting as they are convenient; and I have one in my possession which for two years I carried with me, by turns used as bed, sofa, and garden-chair; and at length brought safely back with me as a model. It consists of a frame of very firm wood, with three short round legs. A net covers the whole, which consists of thin strips of fresh cut ox-hide, and by contracting as it dries, imparts to the sofa alike durability and elasticity. The *engareb* alike resists rain and sun, and one needs but to cover it with a carpet to procure the most comfortable seat, perfectly secure from insects, and with moreover this advantage, that it is transported everywhere with the greatest facility. The strips of hide above mentioned are also here applied to many other purposes, and were formerly even used for cruel executions, the delinquent being bound

therewith firmly to a tree, and there left so long to the operation of the sun that the gradually contracting bands at length squeezed him to death.

We found at Hessir a peculiarly contagious fever raging, the first symptoms of which were bleeding at the nose and sickness, and which was always decisive in a week at the latest ; but after that period, either death or rapid recovery invariably followed. Three months ago the disease raged in Dongola itself ; but it now appears to have advanced further northward. Some regard it as a modified form of cholera, which in many of the symptoms it does resemble ; but the fever generally appears less painful. Doctor Koch, a great anti-contagionist, who studied the plague and cholera in Alexandria, visited some of the patients, and left a prescription for their treatment, from which he anticipated the happiest results. At the same time he infinitely regretted that he could not devote more time to the observation of what he professionally termed *so highly interesting a disease*.

It is fourteen hours journey from hence to Dongola. The character of the country was the same as on the previous day. Uncultivated fields were still frequent, but were more rarely

adorned with trees—indeed, Dongola is a tolerably important place, though only built of rough bricks or clay, plastered with straw ; it appeared from this side devoid of trees, and only towards the Nile surrounded by some emerald meadows.

The town may be divided into two parts, one of which is surrounded by a plastered wall, a few towers, and is partly protected by a small ditch : this is sufficient however for defence against the natives. Here reside all the government officials, also the garrison, which consists of a battalion of infantry (partly Egyptian invalids, partly blacks), and of three or four hundred irregular cavalry. A large arsenal stands in the centre of this quarter. The other portion of the town being larger and nearer to the river, contains the rest of the population, amounting to about six thousand souls. Here there is even a well-furnished bazaar, and a few newly built houses belonging to the richest people, of burnt bricks, with regular rows of windows, which latter are however not supplied with glass.

The Turkish governor, Mudir, had made such scanty preparations for my reception, and appointed me so bad a house near the river, that I preferred to pitch my tent in the adjoining field, whereupon I sent a very indignant mes-

sage to the governor by my *Kawass*. When he visited me the next morning, I received him without rising, in my tent, offered him neither coffee nor pipe, refused his subsequent offer of his own house, and declared that I would have nothing to do with him, but would leave to his Highness the Viceroy, the punishment of his uncourteous behaviour.

When you have the power to carry it through, that is to say, when the Turks have good reason to believe that you may become dangerous to them, it is best to treat them so, and not to put up with any slight; as indeed a proud and cold behaviour is always more effectual with them than familiarity and politeness. The Governor of Dongola and I became the best possible friends after this scene, of which all his followers, and the commander of the troops, who accompanied him, were witnesses; for having softened me by a host of excuses, he let me want for nothing, and overwhelmed me with attentions, as well during my then stay as on my return several months afterwards, during which time he offered me the entire use of his two boats on the Nile for the remainder of my journey.

On opening my writing case in the evening,

I discovered to my horror that the previous volume of my journal was missing. An author looks upon such things as treasures, although it may be a folly. On making inquiries it appeared that the book must have been overlooked in the tent on leaving Hassir, which we did in the darkness of midnight. I immediately despatched one of our Arabs upon the swiftest dromedary, who fortunately brought it back with him the following morning. This, however, was owing to a lucky circumstance; every house in the village had been searched by order of the Kascheff, and my Arabian was already seated upon his dromedary, in order to return without accomplishing his mission, when one of the inhabitants, in spite of an oath of secrecy, revealed to him that the book he sought for was to be found two miles thence at a Faki's, who purposed cutting it up into potent amulets against the fever then raging. To my great satisfaction this canonization of my obscure hieroglyphics had scarcely commenced, when my Arab arrived, and with the aid of his Kurbatsch, enforced a speedy restitution. I received the whole uninjured, with the exception of a single leaf, which had been cut out, and was easily restored. This piece of good fortune

was celebrated by the consumption of a bottle of champagne, which two Europeans, who were staying there, assisted me in emptying—Doctor Iken, formerly an officer in the Hanoverian service, who held the appointment of army surgeon, and the apothecary * * *, formerly French captain of dragoons, and, during the war, commander of Pirna in my paternal Saxony! The scene around during this libation looked like a paradise, the mimosas and sycamores were waving around my tent, and the thermometer stood at 36 (111 Fahrenheit). Several dogs, hoping to obtain a bone, horses and camels reclining upon the green barley, fat cows, sheep and goats from the neighbouring farm, two little gazelles and a giraffe, upon which latter I had already tried some not particularly successful equestrian experiments, were rolling in peaceful enjoyment around us; whilst red, green, and purple birds sung to us from the branches above, and in the tent itself sundry beautiful lizards, with steel-blue tails, as also about twenty gigantic spiders, with legs more than an inch in length, ran up and down the sides, and even occasionally honoured our very table with a visit. The plaguy insects of Egypt, on the other hand, gnats, flies, and even

mosquitoes, had become rarities, and were afterwards not to be met with at all. I fancy it was too hot for them. But there are tormenting little ants, which conceal themselves in the clothes and beds, and constant care must also be taken on account of the termites.

The provisions in *Dongola* appeared to us to be of the most excellent quality, especially the meat, and the prices continued very moderate. They also prepare here a sort of beer called *bilbil*, which is in use as far as Kartum, and much resembles our small beer, when it begins to turn sour. It is not unpleasant in the heat, and cooling ; but must be newly made, at least every two days. If too much fermented, it changes its taste, and becomes a very intoxicating and injurious liquor ; but when fresh, none of us experienced any evil results from drinking it.

On the 24th I visited the governor in his clay palace, where, besides his wives, he keeps a great number of young Abyssinian and Negro boys, whose effeminate and coquettish manners, not a little astonish a European. Slaves, by the way, are not cheaper here than at Kahira, and Doctor Koch had to pay 2000 piastres (about £20.) for a youth of fifteen. We subsequently, accompanied by Mudir, inspected the indigo

manufactories which Mehemet Ali has founded, and which now supply three qualities of indigo, the first of which is equal to that of India. The oka costs the government 24 piastres, and is sold for 80 piastres. 50,000 okas are manufactured yearly, and no European is now employed in the fabrication.

The governor has several very well cultivated gardens, with luxuriant vineyards and many fruit trees, partly brought thither from *Kordosan*. In one of these was a remarkably elegant Saki,—for Nile water is to be found at a moderate depth everywhere in the neighbourhood of *Dongola*—which was set in motion by the finest oxen I ever beheld. These oxen were perfect paragons, of colossal size, with straight backs, of admirable build, and distinguished from others of their race by high withers, and a peculiar lengthening of the skin of their necks, which hung like a robe, full a foot and a half below, and gave them a most majestic appearance. In a more than usually clean stall close by, whose court was adorned with flowers, beneath which *engarebs*, covered with carpets invited repose, we saw some dromedaries of the noblest race, and four giraffes of different sizes. The latter are so common in

the desert near Dongola, that you may purchase one of them for fifty to sixty Spanish dollars. An express permission from the government is, however, requisite for their exportation.

The governor is said to be extremely rich, and I was confidentially informed that this arose from his having discovered a bed of diamonds in the neighbourhood ; but from certain information which I had an opportunity of acquiring, this diamond-bed appears to consist in neither more nor less than a lucrative management of the taxes, which unfortunately afford but too many opportunities for the most shameless rogueries to the men in power. Both the inhabitants and Mehemet Ali are sufferers by this system, through superficial or spiteful reporters endeavour to cast the whole blame upon the latter.

To illustrate this, it will be sufficient here to expose one of these devices only of which I have had the most convincing evidence. All the produce furnished to the government, such as rice, &c. must again, according to the Viceroy's orders, be sold to those who require it, in order to prevent all want, at a certain fixed and perhaps somewhat high, but by no means unfair price. To obviate this, the following means

were resorted to.—A rich merchant of the place and a Koptic official of the Governor's, who with a few thousand piastres a year, contrived to sustain twenty times as great an appearance as such an income would allow, had apparently, precisely at the time I reached Dongola, purchased all the government stores, at the fixed price. Whoever now required anything, was put off with some pretence, and recommended to wait until fresh supplies arrived. Compelled, however, by want, which admits of no delay, the people were necessitated to buy at double and threefold prices, from those two worthies, with whom Mudir shared the profit. In a similar manner, the military officers in these regions, so remote from the seat of government, partly in recruiting, partly upon other occasions, exercise a most oppressive tyranny, from which the individuals attacked are constantly forced to relieve themselves by pecuniary donations. These abuses may certainly contribute to produce the incipient emigration, but take their rise altogether in the unexampled immorality of the upper classes, which is not to be remedied—even were Mehemet Ali to decapitate fifty governors yearly—an event which even the worst of Turks regards with philosophic calmness as

the inevitable dispensation of God—save by an improvement in the mode of educating the rising generation. This is the object for which the Viceroy is striving, and he shrinks from no cost, as we are well aware, to attain it. Should, however, the most appropriate means to effect this end not be invariably adopted, let it be considered that Mehemet Ali is but a Turk of very deficient education, who has raised himself puerely by the grandeur of his own genius, so far above the rest, as to perceive in what they fail; yet unfortunately is, with but few exceptions, surrounded by selfish and ignorant counsellors, who, instead of entering into his liberal views, are perpetually occupied in thwarting them, whenever they can do so unremarked, and unpunished.

In the evening, I rode to a churchyard outside the town, where several celebrated *santons* have their monuments, which in form resemble so many haystacks. The other gravestones display a variety of rude fancies. Figures of beasts and flowers are placed upon some, in coloured pebbles; others have the form of little houses; others again the shape of jars, with ears to them, &c.

On our arrival, a man who had died that

morning, was just being buried. He lay, whilst the grave was being dug, face and bosom enveloped in a cloth, and the legs naked, upon a bier, by the side of the grave, whilst a number of people, of both sexes, stood round, and gave vent to the most horrible wailings.

The girls of Dongola pass for great beauties, and are, really, often well-grown, and of gentle, agreeable features. Several of those present were gifted with these advantages; but their whole bodies were so covered with fat and oil, and their hair so saturated with the same composition, that they could not possibly suit the more refined tastes of a European.

We hunted several times during my stay at Dongola, in order to provide ourselves with partridges and gazelles, and one day killed a couple of wild cats, whose fur was very beautiful. The doctor and the apothecary were always of the party, which the latter especially, who had the advantage of being able to manufacture his own cordials, enlivened by inexhaustible anecdotes of his previous military career. One of his favourite stories was, that he had once, on being sent with despatches to the camp before Ulm, given Napoleon himself a good kick behind, with the view of awakening some

one who might announce his arrival to the Emperor. He asserted that the Emperor grew very angry, (*ou le serait à moins*) and that solely on account of this accident he had, notwithstanding his services, been denied the cross of the legion of honour.

Another tale, which bore a greater semblance to verity, amused me not a little. When Napoleon returned from Elba, and *Monsieur* went to meet him, the apothecary was serving in a cavalry regiment stationed at *Lyons*, which being arrayed upon the market-place, was in vain harangued by his Royal Highness, as no '*vive le roi*' was heard, the Prince ordered money to be distributed amongst the soldiers, and in particular directed one of his adjutants to offer a non-commissioned officer standing near, a piece of gold, which present he accompanied with these words, "*Allons, mon enfant, prenez, vous voyez que les Bourbons sont plus genereux que votre Bonaparte !*"

"*Qu'est que ça te f. . . . toi, si nous lui faisons credit !*" cried the bearded warrior indignantly, and without touching the gold, immediately shouted loudly, "*Vive l'Empereur,*" which cry was forthwith taken up by the whole regiment, and convinced *Monsieur* that the best thing

he could do, under the circumstances, was at once to return with all convenient expedition to Paris.

Doctor Iken, an active man of powerful mind and frame, entertained us by telling of the *Doctor Francian* policy of the Sultan of Darfur (where he purposed trying his fortune), who let everybody *enter* but nobody *depart from* his dominions. Two Englishmen are said to have resided with him, now, for the space of five years, being very well treated, possessing every thing in abundance, but hitherto unable to discover any means of escape. Dr. Iken means nevertheless to make the venture, and as a skilful physician and clever military tactician, hopes to render services which will insure him a brilliant position there. Should better success attend him in Darfur than in Hanover, he cares little, he says, about returning to his native country. It is true he was not aware at the time that King Ernest now reigns in the land over a faithful and joke-appreciating people.

Herr Iken succeeded, as army-surgeon at Dongola, to a Frenchman of the name of Germain, who was murdered there by a negress he had married. The apothecary was present, as the woman, without a symptom of agitation,

handed him the cup of coffee containing the ingredient which caused his death. The poison, extracted from a herb which is here to be found in abundance, was so powerful, that after a few minutes' sickness, convulsions followed, and the unfortunate victim perished in the same night, preserving to the last moment the most perfect consciousness. He forgave the negress, although she exhibited little remorse for what she had done, and only endeavoured, confusedly, to deny the crime. She nevertheless thought proper, as M. Germain with great generosity prevented her from being taken, to collect together every thing of value she could lay hands on, and to fly at the dawn of day with her booty. She afterwards returned, without enduring further molestation, and is now married again and living at Dongola. It was a curious coincidence that but a few days before, a scorpion had stung poor Germain in the lip, which caused him the most exquisite pain, but from which he was cured by a specific here in use for the bite of that insect, and which consists simply in immediately swallowing twenty drops of spirits of ammonia in water, the result whereof was a speedy restoration to health.

A few days afterwards, Doctor Veith, and

another member of the Austrian botanical expedition, arrived here from Kartum, very feverish and ill, and terribly depressed in spirits. When I informed these gentlemen, in conversation, that I was about to follow in their footsteps, although I had originally intended to go no further than Dongola, and had only provided myself with provision for this distance, they with one accord entreated me to give up the proposed extension of my tour, the varied difficulties and deprivations of which they painted in the gloomiest colours. I had, however, determined to penetrate at least as far as M. Cadavène to *Dschebel Barkal*, and was not to be dissuaded from my resolution.

CHAPTER II.

TOUR UP THE NILE TO MERA VI, AMBUKOL,
DSCHEBEL-BARKAL.

HAVING sufficiently inspected the few lions of *Maraka*, or New-Dongola, which has only become the capital of the country since its conquest by Mehemet Ali, despatched my extensive European correspondence, and completed filling up the gaps in my journal, during which time, however, I neglected not to refresh myself, after the heat and fatigue of the day, by a diurnal bathe in the cool waters of the Nile, I embarked, with my scanty retinue, on the first of May, with a favourable wind, in two boats of Mudir, for Meravi.

The number of *sakis* which, from Dongola,

almost without interruption, adorn both banks of the Nile, and of which there are, in the whole, in the province of Dongola, between 4 and 5,000, display a richness of cultivation, certainly not to be anticipated in these remote regions. Both sides of the river were constantly bedecked with the most beautiful verdure, frequently interspersed with groups of trees. These, however, being always of the same kinds, produce a wearisome monotony, which, as I have already complained, is common to all these countries, from Alexandria upwards, and to me, at least, would render a constant residence very tedious. Perhaps there is no river in the world that, with so long a course, offers so little variety as the Nile.

The taxes of the inhabitants of the kingdom of Dongola, as far up as Shendy, are almost invariably levied by *sakis*. M. Cadalvène asserts erroneously that these taxes are very capriciously inflicted by the government (for the knaveries of the individual officials are not to be considered here), and have risen as high as 22 Spanish dollars the *saki*, besides which, an undetermined quantity of produce must be given, which the Fellah afterwards is compelled by necessity to purchase from the government, at very high prices. The largest *saki*, which can water four

Feddan (about a Magdeburg acre), which at the first harvest will produce 40 *ardeps* of corn, pays only 15 Spanish dollars, and the lesser in proportion. There exists no further tax in kind, although it is optional with the collectors of the district to take a portion (but legally not more than five *ardeps*) of the above mentioned sum in produce, according to a government tariff; their value must, however, be deducted from the tax.

This arrangement may, it is true, give frequent opportunities for abuses, but on the other hand, when the officers are honest, serves often to ease the Fellah in the payment of his taxes; and I have seen many instances, in the course of my journey, when the farmer was very glad to be permitted to pay his taxes in produce. It is an unfounded assertion, which we meet with in many books, that the Fellah is compelled to sell *all* his corn to the government, at a low price, and then to repurchase it, at a high one—it is an obvious absurdity, for no government could sustain such *legalized* tyranny, in the long run. The case alluded to can only take place with regard to that portion of his rates which the Fellah pays in kind, and which, as above stated, is deducted from the principal

sum, when bad harvests or mismanagement compel him to purchase seed for sowing, from the government, when he certainly pays somewhat dearer for it, yet according to a fixed tariff. In this year, the prices fixed upon by the government were such that the difference between the rates given and demanded by them, was only three piastres the *ardep*, in barley, and ten in wheat. Should the rustic get into debt, whether through the rascality of the officials, which, doubtless, is often the case, or through his own laziness, which is not less frequent, his position may, indeed, become oppressive. Those, however, who owe nothing to the government, preserve the free disposition over all that remains of their produce, after paying the taxes. The tax which is subsequently levied upon the corn that is sold in the towns, no longer falls upon the farmer, but upon the merchant who deals in it. I am perfectly convinced that, with the extraordinary tenfold fertility of the land, the taxes which the government requires from the Fellahs are not in the least exorbitant. That is to say, each, after the payment of these taxes, can, with but little exertion and industry, procure for himself and family the necessaries of life, without, however, being able to

lay by much. Whoever knows, and has long observed, the inhabitants of these countries, will confess that this is precisely the fittest situation for them to hold, because by *forcing* them to work, it keeps them from idleness and demoralization. Could the executive powers here keep pace with the legislative, no misery at all would exist among the population, and neither emigrants, nor deserted fields, would meet the eye.

The state of the labouring classes in Mehemet Ali's territories, would resemble that described by the now become unfashionable but not the less philosophical Voltaire, in his '*Siecle de Louis XIV.—Le manœuvre doit etre reduit au necessaire pour travailler telle est la nature de l'homme* (especially of Fellahs); *il faut que le grand nombre soit pauvre mais il ne faut pas qu'il soit miserable.*' This is the view taken by Mehemet Ali, and doubtless it is delusion to expect that *every body* should live in wealth and luxury; simply because it is an absolute impossibility.

We hastened on, impelled by the refreshing wind, which often enveloped us in clouds of sand from the dry land, and which was piercingly cold, we passed the extensive village of *Hannak*, with the old fortress *Handak*, and reached the

end of the first day's journey *Dongola-Aghuss*, the former now the almost ruinous capital of the country. After a little time we progressed much less rapidly, but the weather continued so cold and dismal, that we all became unwell. On the 3rd of May I had, for the first time, the pleasure of regarding at my ease two large living crocodiles, at least 18 or 20 feet in length. Their colour was a greyish yellow, which rendered them scarcely distinguishable from the sand upon which they lay. I afterwards discovered that most crocodiles are spotted with yellow and black, quite different from the stuffed ones of that species we see in Europe, as after death they assume altogether a black complexion. The largest of these creatures lay with its prodigious jaws widely distended upon the bank, either watching for some prey, or in order to allow the snipes to take the leeches from his mouth, a fact so long regarded as a mere fable of Herodotus, until later naturalists confirmed its truth. The sailors caught the same day one of these birds (it was of a grey colour, with short beak and long legs), and which continued for some time afterwards our entertaining fellow voyager. We steered directly towards the crocodiles, and some twenty

blacks, in a long line, just like the carvings on the graves of the kings, drew our vessel, by a rope, in the middle of the river, wading where it was shallow, and occasionally swimming where it became deeper. They seemed little afraid of the crocodiles, and many endeavoured to keep them off by a sort of musical shout they gave utterance to. The two monsters also hastened to bury themselves in the water at our approach. I remarked here a peculiar unceasing sand-dropping like a waterfall, which, driven by the wind from the desert, swept over a dark perpendicular portion of the bank, and as long as we remained in sight of it, never for a moment relaxed in its violence.

After passing Debbah, whence the caravans for Kordosan set out, we could only advance very slowly, because the Nile there takes a turn almost northwards, and consequently the wind was blowing directly in our faces. Luckily it is so arranged that the crews of all government vessels are compelled to render their assistance under such circumstances, which, as the traffic is very small, causes them no great trouble. They relieve one another also from *saki* to *saki*, thus not remaining at work more than a quarter or half an hour at a time. A peculiar yelling

shout announces their arrival at the next *saki*, upon which *the change of Negros* takes place as rapidly as at an English post-house.* As we but rarely disembarked, I shall leave the places we passed by unnoticed, and only mention those to which any interest attaches in speaking of my return.

On the 5th we reached *Ambukol*, the seat of a *Kascheff*, which lies half way between *Debbeh* and *Meravi*, but is marked quite incorrectly in the maps. It happened to be a market day there, which was held in a sand field close by the clay huts of the village. Nothing could be more poverty stricken; nevertheless half the wares consisted of European manufactures—as little mirrors, glass beads, cheap cutlery, and some coarse English calicoes. The rest consisted of the commonest produce of the country, chiefly articles of consumption; and the only novelty I descried was a pair of coloured sandals from *Hedschas*, which I purchased at a somewhat exorbitant price. The *Kascheff* was

* His Highness travelled in England before railroads were the order of the day.—*Tempora mutantur!*

Note by the Translator.

a handsome martial looking man, and entertained me in his house with an excellent meal in the Turkish style, during which the floor of the room we sat in, with the exception of the seat we were on, was constantly sprinkled with water. On the unpainted earthen walls hung splendid weapons, and in the midst of them an antique lute, with three strings of most curious form. The Kascheff, who seemed to be a great lover of music himself, played to us after dinner an ear-splitting tune upon it, which, however, was completely thrown into the shade by some street music, which our Amphytrion had sent for. This was, in addition, accompanied by the dancing of two young Almehs, who were in the act of making a professional tour from Egypt to the Sudan, and were exhibiting their talents with considerable success upon the journey. Here too then are travelling *artistes*. In spite of the merry mood of the Kascheff, I could neither get him to drink wine or rum, of which I had purposely sent for some bottles from the boat. On the other hand, a Kurd in his service, who had a remarkably German-looking countenance, was less conscientious, and almost emptied at a draught a bottle of rum which was offered to him. After becoming more than

satisfied with the music and dancing, I took leave of the Kascheff, who accompanied us on horseback, with all his people, to the boats. Two soldiers rode first, with kettle-drums, in the shape of calabashes, upon which, instead of drumsticks, they unremittingly hammered with the thick end of their bridles, thus producing a noise which resembled the hammering of a distant mill. As soon as we reached the open country, the Kascheff and his people began to play with the Djereed for our amusement, in which he possessed great skill. He told me that he was obliged to be very careful, as the strength of his arm was such that already more than once he had killed one of his people with the short stick they hurl at one another.

In the district of *Ambukol*, which is not great, there are about 340 *sakis* and about eight or ten inhabitants to each.

On re-entering the boat, it was announced to me that the poor snipe, whose wings we had cut, had fallen overboard and got drowned. The name which the natives give this bird, signifies the body-guard of the crocodile, and they will swear to having seen it awake the sleeping monster in order to give him notice of an approaching danger. I carried with me besides some

other animals : a small and very young gazelle, from the village Solib, whose name I have given it, and by the simple addition of a single letter converted to our German *Solieb* (so dear), a name the graceful little animal in every respect deserves. She is so tame that often at night when it becomes too cool for her, she will get into my bed to seek by my side a warmer locality. In the day time she takes a walk upon the bank, and grazes ; Susannis valiantly protecting her against the attacks of strange dogs, though extremely jealous if he sees me pet her. This the good-natured Spartan indicates in a manner quite affecting to behold, by first coming, whining, springing up to me and licking my hand, then mournfully turning away and kissing the gazelle in a similar manner, who for her part takes the matter very coolly, and quite as a thing of course. We are further accompanied by a goat from Kordosan of the strangest exotic form and hue, who has traversed with us the whole desert, and daily supplies us with milk for our tea. Lastly, comes a tortoise of the most mercurial temperament. Its shell glitters like mother-of-pearl in the sun. On its feet it has sharp claws and webs, a snout like a hedge-hog, and eyes of star-like clearness which are surrounded by a ring like brilliant metal.

After witnessing another burial, when the corpse was first danced round by women with the wildest lamentations, and then embarked in Charon's boat for his final resting-place on the other side, we proceeded on our way, and arrived without further adventures on the 7th at *Meravi*. Here was another fair, little better than that at *Ambukol*, which, however, for the first time since leaving Dongola supplied us with beef for our table. M. Cadalvène, describing a similar fair at Meravi, is horrified at the sight of slaves and asses lying *pèle mèle* together in the sun before the booths. I saw however nothing more pitiable in their position than when at the balls in our capital cities, horses and coachmen shiver through half a night *pèle mèle* together in the streets, or in Russia are even occasionally *frozen*.

The Kascheff of Meravi had been always mentioned to me as a highly honourable man, and indeed his province which comprises 1200 *sakis* is distinguished by a particularly blooming appearance, and a visibly increased comfort amongst its inhabitants. The villages were better built, the fields well cultivated, and numerous herds enlivened the banks of the river. Meravi itself possesses many fine-looking houses,

amongst which the new Indigo manufactory takes the first place.

Our attention was chiefly concentrated upon the isolated square-looking form of the mysterious Dschebel-Barkal, at whose foot the wealthy town of Napata stood, which the Romans, with their usual narrow-mindedness, destroyed to revenge themselves on the queen Candace, for throwing down the statues of the emperor, which they had set up on the borders of Æthiopia. This sacred mountain, where from the oldest time a celebrated oracle was established, was already visible above the horizon, many hours before we reached Meravi, on the opposite side of the Nile, which here resembles an immense lake in appearance. Our curiosity was too much excited to admit of our staying longer at Meravi than was necessary for procuring the requisite provisions ; we therefore resumed our journey so speedily as to obtain a cursory view of the ruined temple, as well as the pyramids of Napata that very evening.

Dschebel-Barkal, is about a mile and a half distant from Meravi, and the journey much more picturesque than it had been for some time.

Besides Dschebel-Barkal, two other peaked

mountains of considerable height rise from the desert, and the frequent turns of the river, enclosed by bright green heaths and waving fields of corn afforded a most charming landscape.

It was not until we were close upon the mountain that we descried, between the lofty palm-trees of the village which now occupies the site of the ancient Napata, some distance inland, the pyramid mausoleums of its former rulers.

There is a spot here on the Nile, from which the south side of the Barkal cliff produces one of those extraordinary appearances with which clouds and mountains occasionally mock us. It exhibits the most exact effigy of a female bust, (in profile) whilst an oval opening in the rock, through which the blue sky glimmers, affords the eye. The old Æthiopian sculptors of Queen Candace herself could not have carved a more imposing goddess than from this point, by a mere sport of nature, is rendered visible, and I purposely allowed my boat to turn round and round in the middle of the stream for a considerable time, in order to enjoy this extraordinary sight somewhat longer.

On landing at Barkal, we were received by the Sheik, a young man of great beauty, who looked scarcely eighteen years of age and who was but

little disfigured by several deep cuts in the cheek, which here begin to be fashionable, and are meant to be ornamental. He was of the race of the Shaki Arabs, of copper complexion, 'and united to the dignity natural to almost every Arabian, a gracefulness of manner which would have excited admiration in every European drawing-room.

As soon as we had procured the requisite number of asses, (for unless compelled, no one here *walks*) we began our march, under the guidance of the young Sheik, in the direction of the ruins. Interesting and remarkable as ruins doubtless are, not only Cadalvène, but also Rüppel, have given a somewhat too poetical description of their wonders, and this I have remarked to be the case with the descriptions of all travellers in these countries, excepting Burckhardt, Linant, and Caillaud, whose narrations are strictly true and free from all exaggeration.

The whole mass of the Temple ruins lie in front of the broad side of the mountain next the river, so that one can comprehend them all at a glance. Nevertheless, their general impression is by no means imposing, and the perpendicular cliff of reddish rock rising behind them, tends to

render the ruins still more insignificant in appearance. As we approached them nearer, and entered the remains of the largest temple-palace, which lay the farthest to the south-east, on the right side, we found that although it comprised a considerable space, and its length must once have been above 400 feet, yet that the proportion of the pillars and columns were extremely moderate. The pillars which Herr Rüppel terms *gigantic*, could not, to judge by what remains of them, have exceeded 50 feet in height, and the largest columns, which the same imaginative traveller dignifies as *colossal*! are not above three or four feet in diameter, and two or three and twenty in altitude. One only of them remains standing. Both architecture and sculpture are also much inferior to the Egyptian masterpieces of the same description. Curious, however, are the many diversities in style, and the many peculiarities discoverable, compared with the Egyptian style, notwithstanding that the characteristic type of the whole remains the same. Although the temples here are certainly not so old as those of Thebes (far from it), yet, after seeing these ruins, and those of Meroe, I will not altogether deny, that the Egyptian architecture may have originally

sprung from the Ethiopian regions, whither again, at an earlier period, as Heeren so cleverly demonstrates, it may have come from India, by the old trade road—but, certainly, this architecture first acquired in Egypt that development which has rendered it an almost unattainable model to posterity. This improvement, or rather regeneration, of the art, no doubt re-acted upon Ethiopia, at a subsequent period, without, however, producing anything to compare with the grand Egyptian monuments.

The objects described by Herr Rüppel, are yet to be found amongst the ruins of the great temple; for instance, the block of black granite, with something like a foot raised upon it, in which that writer recognizes the sandal of Perseus; the beautiful cubic altar of grey granite, which is almost uninjured, and whose hieroglyphics and carvings he rightly describes as more than commonly beautiful, though he does not allude to the remarkable circumstance, that on one side of this altar, two women in armour are represented fighting; lastly, the table of red granite, also covered with exquisitely carved hieroglyphics. The huge rams of grey granite, at the entrance, also alluded to by Herr Rüppel, are now completely dug out, and placed

outside, beneath huts of reeds, whence they are intended to be transported to Kahira. On this occasion, they made the discovery that a whole row of similar rams led to the temple, of which two are already partially uncovered, and the rest, probably, still buried in the sand close by. The form of these rams, whose woolly fleeces are carefully worked out in the stone, and which are without horns, differs as materially from the Egyptian mode of treating such subjects, as the yet distinguishable carvings upon the pillars, especially the horses and other animals.

From what I afterwards saw of the ruins of *Mesaurat* and *Naga* (hitherto unvisited save by Caillaud and Linant), I am inclined to regard these said rams, which, besides, hold a female figure between their forefeet, as of a kindred sex themselves, i. e. as *sheep*, and not rams, and to refer this incongruity to the female regimen of queens of Meroe and Napata, whose dynasty, all bearing the same name, lasted for some centuries—leaving, however, the archaeologists at liberty to receive or reject this novel hypothesis, and start something more plausible in its stead. For it is certainly possible that they (the sheep I mean, and not the archaeologists) had horns of metal in former times, though no suffi-

cient traces thereof are to be found in the granite.

The open saloon, westward of the temple, which would seem formerly to have been in connection with it, contains likewise the altar of sandstone, mentioned by Rüppel, on the base of which male and female slaves, bound together, are carved; from which, that keenest of logicians draws the conclusion, that this altar was doubtless one devoted to human sacrifices. A bold assertion, based upon no foundation; for as slaves, bound together, are to be found under various forms, in almost all the temples of Egypt and Nubia, it would make the worthy old Egyptians the greatest cannibals on the face of the earth.

The next building (still in a westerly direction) which Herr Rüppel takes for the ruins of a palace, has lost the two granite lions, of which he took a sketch there. They have been given away by the Viceroy, and if I am not much mistaken, have found their way to England.* The granite obelisk, five feet high, with hieroglyphics, described as standing hereabouts, was also

* They are, I believe, to be seen in the Egyptian Hall, at the British Museum.—TRANS.

not to be discovered ; we found, however, two finely carved torsos of female figures, the one with the head of a lioness, the other, which seemed to be about to squeeze milk from one of her breasts, without any head at all.

The remains, next in order, are merely shapeless heaps of ruins, to guess whose individual purpose would be useless trouble ; but the best preserved temple of all, is the Typhonium, which follows, and which is half carved from the rock. This temple *alone* is in the pure Egyptian style, very unlike the rest, and I surmise that it owes its origin, either to some Ethiopian king of Egypt, or to a later Egyptian conqueror—perhaps to Ptolemy Euergetes, who is said to have penetrated thus far, and even further. The description of this temple by Herr Rüppel, is very graphic, although he here, as in other places, invariably mentions anaglyphics and hieroglyphics by the same general term—‘hieroglyphic carvings,’ which sometimes causes confusion.

The sculpture, which on both sides of the last hall (the Adytum) of the Typhonium, represents a row of Egyptian deities, to whom they sacrificed, are quite uninjured, as well as several still very distinguishable hieroglyphics, whilst

the back wall is entirely destroyed, in order, it would seem, to attempt excavations.

Like symptoms of violence are visible in a side-chamber, devoid of ornament. A portion of the brilliant colours in the Cella, as well as the Pronaos, still glitter in their ancient brilliance, and the greater part of the colonnade of the latter adorned with expressive heads of Isis and Typhon, are yet standing. Only in the first hall, or Selos, the roof has been shaken in by an earthquake, and it is with difficulty that one scales the heaps of ruins, to enter the Cella, or the holy of holies.

Beyond the Typhonium, are the ruins of another much smaller rock temple, which bear the aspect of an antiquity far surpassing the others, but are too much dilapidated for the student to make much of them. It is deeply to be regretted, that no one has visited any of these places capable of decyphering the numerous hieroglyphics, which alone can enlighten us as to the true age, object, and founders of the temples.

We now directed our attention to the pyramidal monuments, which are but a few minutes' walk from the temple last alluded to, and form two groups, whereof the one contains

but few, the other at least twice as many pyramids, in a high state of perfection. Among the first group is one almost fallen in, of larger size and different shape from the rest. It is apparently of much greater antiquity than its brethren, which, seventeen in number, are built in a very different manner from the Egyptian, and are certainly not older, nor even very old at all—indeed, comparatively speaking, I could almost term the last group *modern*. Some of them look as smooth and undecayed as if they were only just completed, and having climbed up one of them, which is easily effected, as every row of stones forms a convenient step, and only the four edges of the pyramid are covered with a polished rim, I found at the summit a wooden beam, which had become exposed to view by the falling away of a stone, and although subjected to the influence of wind and weather, had nevertheless remained in a perfect state of preservation. None of these pyramids are above 80 feet in height, and their shape is narrower at the base, and more pointed at the top than those of Egypt. Almost all of them have, on the south side, a sort of box-like building, and it would seem that the corpses were there admitted. As yet no thorough investigation of

their secrets has taken place, although it has been frequently commenced. Some of these entrances have been erected at a later period—others at the same time as the pyramid itself; and the difference is easily distinguishable. We found carvings in very few of them of a softer and more voluptuous style than the Egyptian. One of these reliefs represented a queen upon her throne, whose footstool consisted of lions covered with a rich cloth. Even these animals were not in the Egyptian style, but rather resembled the Persian mode of carving similar objects. There were no hieroglyphics here. In another bas-relief the queen was sacrificing to Egyptian deities, whilst other figures carried strange-looking things, whose signification I was unable clearly to distinguish.

As is often the case here, the present inhabitants have selected the space around the ancient tombs for their own churchyard, and carefully applied the lids of antique sarcophagi, which lay in abundance about the mountain, to the adornment of their own anthills.

With the setting sun we scaled the rock and its *plateau*, which can only be effected on foot, and is somewhat fatiguing. Of the vultures, which, ‘like the scorpions previously, by *thou-*

sands and thousands fluttered round M. Cadalvène, we saw nothing, but we *did* see a couple of wild cats, which rapidly climbed up the rocks before us. Having gained the summit, we enjoyed a very extensive desert prospect, and beheld in great proximity the group of pyramids of Nur or El Belal. Herr Rüppel calls the distance of these pyramids, which he did not visit, 21 miles (English). They may be easily *walked* to in three hours; yet he assures us that he scaled the Dschebel-Barkal—a single glance from which must have convinced him that the distance, in a direct line, is scarcely one-third of what he mentions. Such palpable blundering comes strangely from an author who commences the preface of his work with the following challenge:—

“ In these days, a perfect mania for scribbling appears to have seized an immense number of learned, and still more unlearned individuals. Bookmaking has become a sort of trade, and money getting is an object kept much more steadfastly in view than the impulse to make interesting scientific disclosures. Another peculiarity has crept in; the greater number of readers judge books by the number of their sheets (!) and allow themselves to be either

attracted or repulsed by the mere appearance, little troubling themselves whether the contents are useful or the information original.

“ Under these circumstances it was *to me* no trifling effort to step into the ranks of literature ; I felt a natural horror of books, in which, with an unmeaning heap of words, but few original ideas and observations of the author himself were interspersed ; to discover which it was necessary to work one’s way through a mass of well known facts, in a great measure combined and raked together from other works, &c. &c.”

These are proud words, and calculated to make us other poor scribblers conscious of our vast inferiority. Easy as it may be to comprehend Herr Rüppel’s horror of bad books, it must nevertheless be considered that in making *original* observations *truth* is above all things a requisite ingredient. *False* novelties are even less esteemed than repetitions, however they may stick in the throat of original genius, of well-known facts. The term ‘original observations’ has also its ridiculous aspect, and reminds me of the sainted Kramer, who never completed one of his numerous romances without writing in large letters, on the title page, “Original German novel, by Kramer.”

But Herr Rüppel himself has not always known how to omit the useless repetitions so much decried in his preface. I select the following specimens from the multitude for the benefit of the reader.

Speaking of some unimportant relics of columns, Herr Rüppel writes—"Burckhardt says, page 83, that these columns are of chalk-stone; I have called the material sandstone in my notes: *one of us must consequently have been mistaken.*"

What an interesting fact, and what a keenly drawn conclusion! How far Herr Rüppel pertains to the learned or unlearned class of authors, I shall not presume to determine, because I am incapable of judging. That he has not attempted to bribe the public (after the manner he denounces in other authors) is pretty plain, for though he may be occasionally instructive, no one can accuse him of being by any accident amusing. Even his *original* German style, which bears considerable resemblance to his name, might be frequently mistaken for a clumsy translation of another language, and it is at the same time rather surprising that so erudite a man should constantly write *Tiphon* for *Typhon*, &c. turn Ethiopian *Fakis* into

Indian *Fakirs*, and mangle proper names in so unaccountable a manner, that they become unrecognizable at the places they are meant for, inasmuch as they neither assimilate to the Arabian orthography, nor to the pronunciation of our own language. Thus he invariably calls *Meravi*, *New-Meroe*, a name neither known to European nor natives ; writes *Gekdud* instead of *Jakdull*, *Bender* instead of *Bint*, *Agusa* for *Aguss*, &c. &c. which somewhat puzzles travellers who strive to collect information in the footsteps of so great an authority. Equally incorrect, and notwithstanding the heavy *grandezza* of the author, highly superficial are his accounts of ancient Meroe, whilst the description of Caillaud, whom he abuses, is a pattern of the most conscientious accuracy ; but more of that hereafter, as well as of Rüppel's equally false notices relating to Mandera.

When I met Herr Russegger, a real *savant*, at Kartūm, he told me that he had found Rüppel's long list of astronomical observations, his measurements and geographical decisions, as well as many of his assertions with regard to Kordosan and Nubia, not to mention the very imperfect map which accompanies his work, equally incorrect ; an opinion which Herr Rus-

segger has since repeated in several German newspapers. Although all this somewhat detracts from the infallibility ascribed to Rüppel by sundry of his flattering countrymen, he has still unquestionably a great deal in his favour. For instance, his indefatigable collection of rare animals, and skilful stuffing of the same. On this account all lovers of natural history are much indebted to him. His birthplace Frankfort, in particular, to whose museum he generously presented these collections, ought to be ever grateful to him, even had he not been able to muster resolution enough to enter the ranks of German travellers as an *original* observer. It is here impossible to avoid remarking, that people who commence by proudly underrating others in order to pass themselves off as more able and talented, are not always most to be relied upon, just as it is advisable to avoid men who are always talking of straightforward honest Germans. None but the thoughtless mob are deceived by either.

Our gallant Sheik, calculating upon our great thirst and fatigue, had ordered upon the plateau a favourite beverage of the natives, sour milk with onions squeezed into it, and was much surprised that we did this delectable composi-

tion so little honour. We contented ourselves with half an hour's repose, by which time it had become night, before we returned to the river. Heated as I felt, I could not resist the temptation to plunge myself immediately into the Nile, and with such a temperature of the atmosphere, which rivals a Russian vapour bath, one may, I fancy, venture upon this as safely as the Muscovites, who roll over in the snow drifts.

The next morning, mounted on very strong horses lent to us by the Sheik, after crossing the river, we visited the pyramids of Nur. These I regard, at any rate the greater part of them, as the oldest yet existing Ethiopian monuments. Their shape is less pointed than the pyramids of Barkal, and consequently more like those of Egypt, neither have they the entrances, nor the staircase build of the Barkal pyramids. Altogether the remains of about forty are to be distinguished, sixteen of which are still in tolerable preservation, although even these are much shattered and defaced. They are without exception built of a sort of rough hewn sandstone and iron-like puddingstone cemented with earth, and some even appear to have been nothing more than mounds of earth subsequently walled over. The nature of the surrounding soil renders it

probable that not only were the whole of the pyramids at one time surrounded by a canal communicating with the Nile, but even that many canals intersected the space upon which they stand. One of these monuments surpasses all the rest in circumference, and its outer sides are so dilapidated, that with little trouble one can climb to the very summit. The form of this extraordinary edifice entirely differs from those near it, and seems to consist in the varied inclination of the side coverings. After the most careful examination, we were unable to obtain any confirmation of the assertion of certain travellers, that a smaller pyramid serves as kernel to the greater. The full height of the pyramid in its present state, having lost a considerable portion of its point, is about 100 feet, and its circumference four times the number. There can be no doubt but that this is the most ancient Necropolis of the town of Napata, which perhaps, at a later period, for greater convenience, was removed to the neighbourhood of Dschebel-Barkal. Perhaps too the old town stood entirely on the same left side of the river, and it is remarkable that precisely on this most extraordinary spot nobody has as yet attempted excavations, though it is true that they would require

a great expenditure of time, which in this country is attended with no trifling inconvenience. The inhabitants alone are very industrious in fetching away stores from the ruins, partly to give the graves of their Santons in the neighbourhood an uncouth resemblance to the pyramidal form, partly to protect their corn-fields from the sand, and to render their clay cottages somewhat more durable. We ourselves found these people to-day encamped upon the great pyramid, carrying on their work of destruction with more than usual assiduity.

During this excursion, which was undertaken in fearfully hot weather, my poor Susannis shewed the first symptoms of the effect of this climate upon dogs, which, as I had previously read, is fatal to all exotic animals in a very short period. There are also, few native dogs to be found in this district. My formerly so hardy Spartan, threw himself every moment, as if in despair, beneath each little bush upon the sand, to enjoy a moment of shade, and after we had heard him howl most piteously for some time behind us, to which we did not pay sufficient attention, he remained lying still, perfectly exhausted, so that it was not until after our return that I reclaimed him by sending out messengers,

who had great difficulty in finding him. But man is capable of greater endurance, so we visited all the temples of Barkal once more, most heroically, the same evening, and did not return until nightfall, by water to Meravi.

We rested quietly here on the 10th, when the Kascheff gave a feast, at which it was long debated whether we should still continue our journey or at once close our already much extended expedition. Curiosity, however, overcame all other motives, and having arranged that the two boats should wait for us till our return to Meravi, we resolved to commence the following evening a new tour, this time straight across the desert to Schendy, during which, alas! we were compelled to bid farewell, for at least a week, to the pleasant waters of the Nile.

Meravi has also a few antiquities to boast of. In the divan of the Kascheff stood an altar of black granite, with the shield of an old monarch graven upon it, which nevertheless, I was unable to find in the tables of Champollion (my only refuge in such cases) and therefore, cannot conscientiously name, although it would be difficult to prove me in the wrong, if I were to lay the first Pharaoh that came to hand under contribution.

At the end of the village, nearest the river, they pointed out to us two statues of more than mortal size, but of very inferior sculpture. The Kascheff assured me, that two years ago, an Englishman who spoke Arabic fluently and wore the costume of the country, had remained forty days at Dschebel-Barkal during which period he lived in the Typhonium and was constantly engaged in excavation. For this purpose he daily employed about thirty Arabs, but always sent them home in the evening and only continued the work with his own servants during the night, when he thought he had hit upon anything. He was not seen, however, to take away anything with him, but a small box of black granite which he said he had found in the upper *plateau* of the Barkal rock and which the Kascheff asserted to have been covered with hieroglyphics, to have had a species of keyhole, and to have been adorned on the top with bands of a greenish metal. The stranger had, however, refused to open it before the Kascheff, nor had he said anything relative to its contents. Shortly afterwards he set off for Kartum and Kordosan, and according to subsequent report had proceeded still further, but had not returned to the Nile. He had never mentioned his name. In

Meroe I again found still more remarkable traces of this enterprising traveller, and he who knows the deadly effect of this enervating climate upon both the mind and body of an European, will surely not deny his tribute of admiration to the rare perseverance and energy of this unknown stranger. It would seem, however, that he is either still detained in Darfur, or has perished on the way, as nobody in Egypt has since then heard anything of his return, nor was his name even then to be ascertained with any degree of certainty.

They say that the Dschebel-Barkal chiefly owed its sanctity in the olden time, to its faculty of attracting the thunder-storms, which in hot countries are always doubly valued. This very evening we had a violent storm, with a magnificent rainbow; it remained, however, at a distance, and this time at least was not attracted by the mount of oracles.

CHAPTER III.

COMPULSORY POLEMICS.

THE air was oppressively sultry, and by no means cooled by the storm. But before I proceed any further in these remarks on the weather, I must necessarily dive, for a few moments, into the no less oppressive atmosphere of literary controversy, which, however, I will render as palatable as I possibly can, to the small circle of my readers. I was, in fact, honoured by Dr. Rüppel, with a remarkably violent and not a little presumptuous reply, to the foregoing observations, to which I rejoined as follows, and which I here repeat for those of my readers to

whom those newspaper discussions have remained unknown.*

I have heard of a man, said I, who, gifted with a sort of vulgar practical philosophy, was in the habit of beating his wife severely, on the last day of every year, until he had extracted from her, in the excess of her rage, every insulting personality that could possibly be made use of concerning him, a knowledge of which it was impossible to arrive at by any other means.

Experience has taught me that one may, in a higher sphere, arrive at the same result, with much greater facility, by simply pointing out a

* It was my intention to omit in my book, the preceding, as well as the present passage, relative to Dr. Rüppel, which had been already printed in the Augsburg Gazette; especially as I had since then made the Doctor's personal acquaintance, and offered him my hand, in token of peace. But when, to my great astonishment, I subsequently found myself attacked, in the preface of his new and deservedly admired work upon Abyssinia, under the not particularly witty, and still less courteous, designation of an entirely unknown author, I considered it, at least, unnecessary to suppress what I had already said of him; which, if not flattering, is at any rate strictly true, in order that the public may form an impartial judgment as to the points on which we have differed.

few blunders to a German pedant. Immediately after this incantation, a volcano begins to show symptoms of eruption. These, as it is well known, are of three kinds, and either spit fire, water, or mud. We have even occasionally the pleasure of seeing all three elements vomited in conjunction.—To Dr. Rüppel I am indebted for a similar exhibition—I, the tourist, as he terms me—not the Prince Puckler he talks of, whose name is here quite out of place, who has never acknowledged himself as the author of the work in question, and whom nothing but the greatest want of tact, and ill-bred ruffianism, could ever have dragged into the business—I must submit to the remarks of Herr Rüppel, as *Semilasso*, tourist, scribbler, and other flattering titles; but he has no right to allude to me, as Prince Puckler, especially as I cannot in the least assist him in the object he has in view: *Semilasso*, and the author of '*the Letters*,' happening to be much better known to the world at large, than the far less important Prince Puckler. I regret, by the way, that the well-meaning editor of the Augsburg Gazette—probably out of respect for his own paper—averted some part of the explosion above alluded to, for I am proud enough to imagine that, in

my intellectual sphere, I stand too far above such attacks, to be at all injuriously affected by them. And I should regret that the unimportant remarks of so obscure a tourist, who is even unversed in the mystic secrets of measuring distances by astronomical observation, should so obviously affect a scholar who does himself so much justice as Dr. Rüppel. I should regret it, I say, did it not serve to teach the public a most useful truth, that of all tyrannies of the present day, that of the dabblers in science is the most disagreeable and unbearable. The blind vanity of these (so called) scholars by profession, the carrion vultures of the dregs of science, who fancy that they put on the spirit with their spectacles, and that no one can know, no one write anything, but themselves—this ridiculous pride cannot be too often, or too strongly, held up to the ridicule of society.

As, however, I am naturally much more afraid of boring my readers than Herr Rüppel, I shall confine my gentle repique to the few remarks which follow.

1. It is plainly to be seen, from Dr. Rüppel's own declarations, that the previous angry correction of your humble servant, which appeared anonymously in the Augsburg Gazette, and

which I erroneously ascribed to the pen of an admiring countryman, owes its origin to the Doctor himself. Of *this* mistake I frankly acknowledge myself guilty.

2. With regard to Saki-el-Abd, and the 'extraordinary sophisms' I am said to have made use of on this occasion ; I must still, despite of all the imposing measurements of my opponent, cling to the simple fact, that Saki-el-Abd is not to be found upon Herr Rüppel's map, together with many other places of importance to travellers, which omission I shall always look upon as a great fault in a geographical chart. Regarding Ambukol, Herr Rüppel is possibly quite right, but I must beg to state, that on this occasion he was *not at all alluded to*. I certainly asserted that Ambukol was marked incorrectly in the maps ; but at the time I wrote this, at the very place itself, I had three or four maps by my side, and it is not impossible, that, as Herr Rüppel expresses himself, "I did not take the trouble to look at" the Doctor's. Perhaps I thought that he might have neglected to mark Ambukol like Saki-el-Abd. I can only defend those passages in which I have mentioned Herr Rüppel by name. This really is the case with number—

3. Where, as Rüppel expresses himself, I assert with such "prodigious pride," that the distance of the pyramids of Nur from Dschêbel-Barkal, instead of Rüppel's *seven*, is certainly *three* hours' walk—he acknowledges the mistake, but would have me to know that it is a *misprint*, and that although it is written in letters at full length, the careless printer had substituted *seven* for *three*. In the same way he accounts for the false spellings. Here it certainly looks more plausible, though the printer must unquestionably be regarded as the most perseveringly obstinate of his race, since he is invariably incapable of decyphering words which occur at least fifty times in the work. My mistake regarding misprints of this description is the more pardonable, that they are altogether omitted in the list of their comrades at the end of the book. But probably the Augsburg Gazette has been making misprints again, when it inserted the following phrase of Herr Rüppel's:—"The chief amusement in the tourist's essays consists for the well-educated (an evident misprint) reader, in his superlative style of exalting and bepraising himself—*selbsten* (second misprint)." Nothing could, indeed, more effectually support my slight attack upon Herr Rüppel's

style of writing, than the elegance and intellectual signification of this sentence. But we will proceed to number—

4. And then say no more about the *style*. ‘*Le style est l’homme,*’ says Buffon. Herr Rüppel, therefore, writes like Rüppel—the tourist like the tourist. Their relative merit is a mere matter of opinion.

5. With regard to Herr Russegger, I know not what he may have published in the Frankfurt *Oberpostamtszeitung* (another article disfigured by a variety of misprints); but I must again repeat, that he expressed to me the verbal opinion, that Herr Rüppel’s descriptions and maps were in many respects erroneous, and not to be relied upon. This will be soon decided by comparing the accounts contained in Herr Russegger’s work, from which, since making his acquaintance, I anticipate great things, with those of Herr Rüppel. Even his article, which I have this moment received, in the supplement to the Augsburg Gazette for the 16th of January, of the current year, gives us a slight foretaste of his intentions, although the endeavour to spare Herr Rüppel as much as possible, is sufficiently apparent; a natural wish, as Herr Russegger is upon the point of visiting Frank-

fort, and feels, therefore, the less disposed to subject himself to the coarseness and dictatorial remarks of so formidable a pedant as Dr. Rüppel. I cannot, however, refrain from quoting a few words of Herr Russegger, a short time since published in the Steyermark paper (fourth series, No. 2, page 110.)

“Rüppel,” writes Herr Russegger, “has given very incorrect accounts of Nubia, which he never visited in person, from the information of third parties. *Altogether I am by no means pleased with his account of his travels, he is too superficial, passes too lightly over the most important subjects, and shows great poverty in genuine natural description.*”

This appears to me exceedingly plain and unmistakeable; yet I, who have merely pointed out individual mistakes of Herr Rüppel, have expressed a far less unfavourable opinion of his work in general. What I have asserted I believe to be true—nor would all the authorities in the world brought against me convince me to the contrary. I should not have again alluded to Herr Russegger, whose profound scholarship I hold in the highest estimation, were it not for the sake of *proving* that I had not—in the want of sufficient learning and

ability myself, for a well-grounded attack upon men of learning (?) made use of the name and presumed pretensions," &c. (another misprint, for to make sense, it should be at least *assertions*)—farther, that it by no means conduces to my disadvantage, "to know nothing of the letters of Herr Russegger, quoted from the Frankfort paper by the Augsburg Gazette, in which that highly deserving traveller protests against such a misuse of his name; and with regard to Herr Rüppel's work, says *precisely the contrary* to what Semilasso *chooses to attribute to him.*"

We have just seen to what extent Herr Russegger's official report to his superiors, which was printed in the Steyermark paper, and unquestionably long before the quotation of the letters 'I knew nothing of,' in the Augsburg Gazette, really contain *precisely the contrary* to what I have asserted.

6. As I do not feel inclined to enter again into every trivial detail contained in Herr Rüppel's manifesto, I must finally assure him, that not having then the honour of his personal acquaintance, I had but the one object in view—to point out to him a few of his mistakes for

love of truth, and I must confess a slight feeling of annoyance at the presumption exhibited in so disagreeable a manner in the preface, and many other passages of his nevertheless, in many respects, deserving volumes. I conceive, however, that in all my strictures far greater moderation will be found than in the reply to them, whose tone I have been compelled to approach somewhat nearly, yet must altogether repudiate the ridiculous insinuation of Herr Rüppel, that I have accused him of superficiality in his descriptions, merely because—he speaks of Mehemet Ali as a tyrant ! I can, *au contraire*, most conscientiously assure him, that till then I was in total ignorance of the fact, that the Egyptian hero had had the terrible misfortune to meet with an antagonist in—the hero of the Frankfort museum. To confess the truth, I do not think that Mehemet Ali has much to fear from this accident, and that all the learning of Herr Rüppel, profound, very fathomless though it be—is totally insufficient to appreciate the genius of the Viceroy ; and although an unimportant tourist like myself, is well pleased to remain to all eternity an object of Herr Rüppel's greatest contempt, he would do well, whilst gazing on the brilliant

planet, whose eclipse he vainly hopes to behold —not to imitate those miserable savages, who cannot even bear the light of the moon without discordant and superfluous shrieking.

CHAPTER IV.

SECOND RIDE THROUGH THE DESERT TO
SCHENDY.

ON the eleventh of May, immediately after a refreshing bath in the Nile, I set off, towards midnight, with my caravan, having placed part of my baggage, and the whole of my floating menagerie, with the exception of Susanis, under the protection of the obliging Kascheff. I was also compelled to leave behind me a very useful Arab servant, given me by the governor of Doerr, on account of his lying in an almost hopeless state, with a virulent fever, of which, as I afterwards heard, he died in a few weeks.

We progressed slowly along an unvarying

hard sandy soil, until the next morning, when we arrived at a rocky valley, covered with a sort of forest of half-dried mimosas, containing a large well of very tolerable water. It was called *Mseali*, and was fixed upon as our first resting place for the night. We had found the desert, on the previous night, full of black granite rocks, with symptoms of vegetation in many places, which renders the presumption that there is water below the surface, very plausible. This observation I have so frequently made, that I am convinced of the possibility of rendering fertile, by means of Artesian wells, thousands of square miles in the deserts of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

Six miles* to the east of our road in *Baden el Gazali* (the valley of the Gazelles), there is said to be a temple of red sandstone, in very good preservation, but according to all accounts, of very moderate dimensions. I should not, however, have minded the trouble of seeking for it, as no European traveller has yet seen it, had

* That is *English* miles.—I have reduced the German *hours* to our own measurement, in this and many other cases, without further remark, for the convenience of the English reader.—*Translator*.

not my guide declared himself very imperfectly acquainted with the way, and expressed a fear of losing himself, for which reason I reluctantly gave up the design.

We slept until five in the evening, when I rose to take an inspection of the neighbourhood. At the well, I found several Bedouins watering the camels, which were mostly of a black colour. They were armed with light, elegant spears and shields, covered with the hide of the hippopotamus, which I vainly strove to induce them to dispose of. There were also two girls, both very young, with them, one of whom, as the men informed me, was the most celebrated beauty of their village, which lay but a few miles distant. She was, really, not bad looking, despite the deep scars on her cheeks, well-painted, and wore, by way of jewelry, a pair of metal rings, like those of our convicts, upon her ancles. She smiled at us, at first, in a very friendly manner, but upon my approaching to regard her more closely, she sprang away, as if seized by a sudden panic, like a roe, through the mimosa wood, towards the distant mountains, accompanied by her senior companion. I took the same direction, with my dragoman, and having scaled the heights, could see nothing of the two girls,

but was quite taken by surprise, by the extensive prospect over a mountainous country, in whose valleys several verdant oases were scattered. In Burckhardt's time, this portion of the desert, inhabited by the Hassanjeh Arabs, was very unsafe. Since the new government, there is not the least to be feared, and one may travel here as fearlessly as in Egypt. On our return, we found the Doctor's slave very ill, in consequence of a *coup de soleil*. He was necessitated to be bled several times, and although he shortly afterwards recovered, did not regain, entirely, his former health during the whole journey.

On commencing our next march, the caravan was, as usual, sent on before us, which we followed at two o'clock in the morning. The distance was about the same as on the previous day; the character of the country also remained the same. We had, however, an adventure. It was dark, and we were compelled to keep close together, for fear of losing our path; when suddenly, as we passed through a dried thicket, a most ghastly figure appeared amongst us. It was a very aged, black man, with a long, white beard, quite naked, but armed with a straight cut and thrust sword, which hung over his back,

suspended from a leather strap. He rode a swift-footed, dwarf donkey, which was not above two feet in height, so that the full sized man was compelled to raise his knees high above the saddle, in order not to touch the ground with his feet. He trotted along, close by my tall dromedary, beneath whose belly he might have easily ridden, without knocking his hat off, had he worn one. We all regarded him with great astonishment, whilst he, on the other hand, did not appear to take the slightest notice of us. At length, in the manner peculiar to Negros, he shrieked a few words to our guide, who generally rode a little in advance, in order to discover the almost trackless path through the desert. He, however, who appeared more afraid than we were of this extraordinary being, only rode on the faster, without making any reply to the address. The old man laughed in his beard, and before we had time to look round, had vanished amid the bushes, as he came, like a grisly spectre of the night. Notwithstanding all our endeavours, we could not extract from the guide any sufficient explanation of the occurrence. But I am convinced that he regarded the appearance of this man in a superstitious light; for he was evidently star-

ted, and afterwards said a great deal about an evil spirit, dwelling in a gloomy cavern, and known by the name of the "old man of the mountain," whose appearance generally foreboded misfortune. Still, he would never positively state that what we had seen was this evil spirit. It appears that these savages, too, have their ghost stories.

We again reposed in a valley, full of leafless mimosas. These bare, dead-looking trees seem to take their winter sleep here, not during the greatest cold, but in the hottest part of the year; with the rainy season they again display the brightest green. The greater part belongs to a particular sort, here called *Samra*.

We found the heat at night, almost as oppressive as in the day time; not a breath was stirring; whilst, during the latter, especially about mid-day, the wind blew in quick, disagreeable blasts from almost every point of the compass. Not being much fatigued we amused ourselves in the afternoon by shooting; our sport was, however, confined to turtle doves and desert partridges. The large white vultures, without seeming at all afraid of our firearms, were wont, whenever a shot was fired, to hasten to the spot, in order to seize upon some

bird which might have remained hanging in a tree, or though wounded, was still endeavouring to escape. They even evinced some inclination to dispute the prize with the hunter, and it was amusing to see him compelled to resort to stones and knocks in order to get rid of them. Some beautifully feathered birds, occasionally enlivened the bushes, and we frequently heard by day, as well as by night, the hoarse cries of the jackal without being able to get a shot at them. Of beasts of prey we saw no symptoms.

The following day the heat suddenly rose to an almost unendurable degree: the thermometer, at two in the afternoon, stood at 39° Reaumur, ($99\frac{3}{4}$ Fahrenheit) in the shadiest part of my tent, and on being laid upon the sand in the sun, 55° ($154\frac{3}{4}$); a temperature which continued at intervals for the next three days. The wind came directly from the south, and burned, instead of cooling, like the breath of a tremendous oven. Not only metal and glass, but also paper, silk, linen, and wood, became scorching hot to the touch. The only cool object we could find, was one's own skin, because the heat of the atmosphere almost exceeded that of the blood. The flesh of a sheep that had been killed at eleven in the forenoon was

obliged to be thrown away, as unfit to eat, by six in the evening, and two live sheep as well as most of the fowls we had taken with us from Meravi, perished on the way, in the night, and we were, unfortunately, unable to procure any more until our arrival at Kartum. My dog too, was nearly dying, and howling piteously, buried himself a foot deep in the sand. It is almost inconceivable how, notwithstanding this infernal heat, the natives can exist entirely naked, saving a slight girdle, their heads unprotected, save by their long hair, from the burning sun, and the feet exposed to the glowing sand of the desert.

The scene of our encampment was at this time in the neighbourhood of some huts of the natives, who are rather addicted to pastoral than agricultural pursuits, and feed almost entirely upon meat and milk, which they call *marna*. A great part of this region of the desert is covered with rushes and various kinds of mimosa and acacia, which, as I have already mentioned, appear almost dead, but again become green with the rainy season, which also brings a variety of esculent herbs to light, of which not a relic is now visible. This state of things continues from July until April. During this period, food for the cattle abounds, and is to be obtained

without the slightest difficulty. Then,— for April, May, and June are the hottest months,— all plants begin rapidly to wither, and during this season, the cattle must content themselves with dried rushes and withered branches, to which a little bad corn is occasionally added. But of this, too little can be cultivated to rely upon in any great measure. All the cattle we saw on this oasis, were thin even to meagreness of the most wretched description. We encamped about a hundred paces from the village, on a broad plain, surrounded by hills, situate at the foot of an isolated and precipitous rock. This latter I ascended in the evening, for the sake of the prospect, and discovered that although turned black by sun and rain, it consisted of the most beautiful marble. On breaking off some pieces, it proved to be white as snow in one place, red in another, and black with coloured veins in a third. From the summit of this rock, which is about 100 feet in height, the beds of several rivers winding amid the groups of trees, are distinctly to be traced. In these the water is collected during the rainy season, and streaming along in great abundance converts the desert for the time into a delightful garden.

Shortly after sunset the wind suddenly changed to the north, and became in a few minutes, a perfect hurricane, which tore down our tents without resistance, the ropes having, previously, all become rotten from the heat. Indeed, all our effects are being gradually destroyed, especially whatever is made of wood. No trunks or boxes will keep together any longer, and even my English dressing-case of the best workmanship is so warped that I am compelled to carry my money in a napkin.

14th May.—The storm of yesterday was followed by a perfect calm, and the night, without dew or breeze, was of the usual stove-like temperature. One of our dromedaries quitted our service, during the march, laid himself down, and could not be induced by any means to get up again.

It chanced luckily that almost at the same moment, we encountered two travellers upon excellent camels, one of which our Kawass—for necessity knows no law—was obliged to take by force, though in exchange for money. Otherwise I do not know what we should have done, for the sick beast happened to be that of the guide, and was laden with our most necessary articles. It was left carelessly by the Arabs on

the spot it had laid down, in the conviction, that in some way it would take care of itself, and be found in the same place after their return, which actually came to pass, as I afterwards ascertained. The regions through which we rode to-night by the twinkling light of the stars, no longer appeared a desert, but rather so lively and variegated an aspect did they bear, they might be termed the desert Switzerland of *Beheda*. *Beheda* is, in fact, the name of the whole large district which the Nile surrounds like a peninsula between Schendy, Debbah and Berber. Ridges of dark, rugged mountains from 1200 to 1500 feet in altitude, where chalkstone occasionally glittered amid the granite and porphyry, surrounded almost unceasingly bushy valleys, in which trees were still to be seen in leaf. These mountains, which we were compelled to cross, often grew somewhat too picturesque to be pleasant—for dromedaries are but bad hands at climbing. We then followed for two hours the windings of a deep ravine with high steep sides, in the rough stony bed of a dried-up river, until little friendly valleys again surrounded us, the soil of which was as smooth as water, and which in the rainy season form large lakes with little beautiful islands. The soil is either pebbles or

hard sand, and beneath the pebbles are to be found onyxes, and other stones of the most varied colours. There is no want of wells here, and although their water is very thick and sandy, it is healthy and devoid of all unpleasant flavour. It was the more welcome to us, as the water in our skins became almost undrinkable in a very short time, on account of the disagreeable smell ; a sad annoyance when you require daily five to six bottles to only quench in some measure the almost unceasing thirst. It was a wild locality in the grandest style, where we found our tents pitched on the following day ; a blue black cauldron of rock without the slightest trace of vegetation. The rocks, consisting of the most splendid porphyry and yellow granite, were piled up in the most heterogeneous forms as if by an earthquake ; and many of these giant masses of stone were balanced in so extraordinary a manner, one upon another, that one expected momentarily to see some of them blown down by the wind. What a treasure would such a stone-quarry be in a country where better use might be made of it ! Here reigned the deepest solitude, the most uninterrupted silence ; even the well appeared to attract nothing living towards it, until in the evening a flock of

partridges came flying, amongst which our deadly bullets made considerable havoc. For an hour together I climbed about upon the rock, but could obtain no extensive prospect, as higher mountains and rocks ever surrounded those which by the sweat of my brow I had succeeded in scaling. The well here, has the clearest and coolest water we have yet met with. The place was called Magaga by our guide, but neither village nor dwelling is to be found in its neighbourhood. A keen wind, whistling through the narrow openings of the ravine caused us to suffer less than usual from the heat, but carried away our tent for the second time ; just as the Doctor and I, lying almost naked upon our beds, were occupied with our diaries, which caused sundry accidents, but at the same a highly humorous scene of astonishment and confusion. As nothing was to be preserved here, and stores would no longer keep, we should have had to celebrate a compulsory fast to-day, had it not been for the partridges alluded to, and half a dozen turtle-doves, which, after an hour's absence, the indefatigable Ackermann brought back with him. The latter birds are almost certain to be obtained daily, in any quantity, from Alexandria to the southernmost boundaries

of the Sudan, so that, if provided with a sufficient supply of lead and powder, one is not compelled to starve even in the desert. The gazelles are much more difficult to get near, and although we saw plenty, we were not fortunate enough to obtain even one during this journey. Insects, with the exception of locusts and spiders, are not to be seen at all at this time of the year; and since I left Kahira, I have seen but two butterflies, which I refrained from chasing, the English critics having accused me of childishness on that account.

I will here throw out a few useful hints for future travellers. It is very important to instruct your people as to the selection of proper places for pitching your tents. These must be as much as possible in the shade, but still more necessarily in a current of air, with the two opposite doors of the tent *obliquely* exposed to the wind, so as to catch the draught without directly admitting the dust. When the heat becomes excessive, it is best to take away the side hanging altogether, and merely leave the top of the tent to do duty as parasol. The roof of the tent should, when the sun shines directly upon it, be covered with thick straw mats; and when there is sufficient water at hand, be plentifully

sprinkled, as well as the ground about the tent. These trifles, well attended to, make, under the most unfavourable circumstances, a difference of from 8 to 10 degrees (18 to 22 Fahrenheit), which is always in some measure refreshing. With respect to clothing, with the frequent sudden changes from heat to cold, I have found loose light-coloured casimere, or half-cloth garments, and a thin flannel waistcoat next the skin, the most appropriate, and much preferable to a too light linen dress. The main thing, however, is to cover the head three and four times over, to protect it from the sun ; and at the slightest sensation of shivering, immediately to wrap yourself in a cloth cloak, which should, therefore, be always at hand, as taking cold is always here productive of the most serious consequences. With regard to diet, I have never followed any particular system, but always eaten as much or as little as I had by me, and found it suited to my wants. What I felt disposed to, I never denied myself. Meat, ripe fruit, fat and lean, sweet and sour, without consideration, I mixed together, although never superfluously. Sometimes I drank wine, sometimes sweet or sour milk, beer and brandy (spirits generally combined with water), the Dolgole-

sian Bilbil, the Egyptian mixture of apricot juice, almond milk (which, by the way, when neither milk nor eggs are to be had, is an excellent substitute for the tea and coffee), common lemonade, or effervescing ditto, artificial soda water, prepared with English powders, sherbet of melons, &c. quite according to caprice and opportunity, without ever feeling the worse for them. *One* precaution I used, to boil bad water previous to using it, and to avoid drinking anything cold when internally heated; furthermore, never to eat or drink more or less than hunger and thirst required. There is nothing, however, to be so carefully avoided in these climes, as unnecessary physicking, as I have known more than one lose health, even life, by merely taking some drug, which at home we may take without harm, as a preventative or remedy for some slight indisposition. I myself, following the mode of life I have described, was lucky enough to escape all the usual effects of the climate upon Europeans, and though often surrounded by epidemics, kept free from fever and other illness—for *migraine* or a brief indisposition is not to be reckoned anything. The only exception to this rule was a dangerous dysentery, which I subsequently contracted during

the rainy season in Sennar, through absurdly taking a Seidlitz powder ; and unfortunately I had no wine left to counteract the injurious influence of the medicine. For, as you are already aware, I ascribe to wine the greatest curative power in these countries ; though only so far as your inclination or previous habits lead you. My grand principle has always been, to follow the impulse of nature, and to regard the doctrine of following in every country the mode of living of the natives, as most pernicious and absurd, unless the first principle, as well as the power of long habit, is entirely to be disregarded. At any rate this plan suited my constitution, and all like me will find my advice agree with them. I am also persuaded, that whoever takes care to guard against cold, lives as well and healthily as possible, and frequently bathes his eyes with fresh water, need certainly not fear ophthalmia in Egypt ; and I ascribe the deadly fevers, during the rainy season, in tropical climates, to nothing but cold, and its effect upon the stomach, or to the swallowing poisonous insects in putrid water. How careless the natives of these lands, *who are to be imitated*, shew themselves to both, we had daily opportunities of observing. They too, as

well as the Europeans, are the constant victims of these causes.

As soon as the moon became visible above the summit of the rocks, we continued our journey, marched for four hours over an extensive plain, and employed the hours between the setting of the moon and the rising of the sun in sleep.

We had progressed a short distance from this resting place, when we beheld with surprise the camels of our caravan, which, by our calculation, were already at the next station, scattered over a large space before us in the distance.

Soon afterwards we perceived in the sand traces of their route, fragments of glass lanterns, and bottles, broken porcelain, pieces of boxes, &c. which suggested to us the direst forebodings—unluckily too soon destined to receive the most perfect confirmation.

Shortly before midnight, the guides, it appeared, had halted near some herds belonging to a neighbouring village, in order to rest a little, and to refresh themselves with milk, when the herd was attacked by a lion, which they described as of enormous size. Luckily the monster preferred a fat ass and a cow of the Arabs—the former of which he carried off, and

dreadfully mangled the latter—to our camels, which, mad with fear, ran hither and thither, many throwing their burthens to the ground, others falling down in their fright. It was several hours before they could all be caught, the scattered parcels and boxes re-collected, and the various baggage, strewn over the plain, packed up afresh. Our loss, of the most necessary things, as of many others which habit had rendered almost necessities, was excessively annoying; many of the water-skins, filled from the last well, had burst, and almost our whole remaining store of wine, oil, vinegar, liqueurs, &c. were sipped by the thirsty sand of the desert. The reader, seated at home at his ease, may smile at such misfortunes; to us, by heavens! it was a very tragic scene, thus so unexpectedly to be halted in a desert, illuminated by the rays of a tropical sun, whilst from the neighbouring mountains we still fancied we could hear the roar of the monster that had caused the evil.

Compelled now to remain with the caravan, whose snail-like pace is far more fatiguing than the most rapid riding, we arrived at about eleven, during the most oppressive heat, at the rocky valley of *Jakdull*. Herr Rüppel, who, as I have already mentioned, with his usual per-

versity, denominates it *Gekdud*, places it in his map more than a day's journey too far westward, which, in later maps has, I find, been carefully copied. Thus error, "like an eternal fever, is preserved," and it is the duty even of an unlearned tourist, to set him right; the evidence of one's senses, being after all of some weight. Rüppel, who was never here, I believe, further speaks of a deep lake in the middle of the valley. This must have been during the rainy season. There was now nothing but a remarkable grotto, which is perpetually full of water to a certain height. We found the water of lukewarm temperature—its surface entirely covered with green slime. The arched covering of the grotto is splendid, and quite a natural curiosity; the lower part to the middle consisting of porphyry, and the upper, as if cut off and placed upon it, of granite. In the darker portions of the cavern, long narrow passages seem to lead into the interior of the rock, which are said to be of immense length. This rock, which is some hundred feet in altitude, forms on its summit several natural cisterns, which afforded us excellent drinking water, and several traces are to be seen in the grotto itself, that during the rainy season a considerable cascade must pour

itself into it, caused by the overflow of the upper reservoirs. The valley itself, surrounded on every side by rocks, now exhibits no symptoms of a lake, and is strewn with stones of various sizes, between which many trees are still standing in full verdure, which render it a very agreeable resting place. Amongst many fine specimens of acacias and mimosas, here so abundant, I remarked a great number of a peculiar species of the latter, of the most graceful shape, as if clipped by a French gardener of the olden time, which exactly resembled a large goblet, with a particularly slender stem. There was also a species of prune, which resembled our wild apple tree, and which we had once or twice before met with in the desert. After the disaster we had encountered, we thought it advisable to stay here another day, during which we enjoyed somewhat cloudy weather, at the same time the sun appeared of a pale blue, instead of a red colour, without throwing out any rays in the heavens. A gentle east wind fanned us, which brought with it the agreeable coldness of 24 Reaumur (86 Fahrenheit.) This steeled our nerves, and gave us fresh strength to undergo other adventures. Towards evening, several travellers, with their suite, from Kartum, as well as

a herd of oxen from the Sennār, arrived to water at the grotto. Some of these oxen were of the most beautiful description, one especially, of a coal-black hue, with a white tip to his tail, seemed to me a perfect realization of the divine Apis of the by-gone ages. Besides these, all the cattle in the neighbourhood came regularly, morning and evening, to water in the valley, so that our encampment did not want enlivening. I had established my residence in a little cavern, half way up the rocky amphitheatre which surrounds the valley, whence, as from an opera box, I could at a glance overlook the changing scenes of our bivouac—a strange spectacle, illuminated by a sky-blue sun, with a mist assuming the most fantastic forms. Immediately opposite to me, the mystic grotto, deepening into impervious night, upon whose grass-green brink a large fire was blazing; beneath me, I overlooked the whole valley of rocks, with its beautiful goblet mimosas, between which the various cattle, horses, camels, asses, oxen, goats, and sheep, wandered or reclined in the shade. Sometimes I caught a glimpse of a naked negro, or an Arab in his white robe, who gazed with astonishment on the ant-like industry of our Europeans, one of whom was trying to shoot

one of the eagles which roost upon these rocks, and are much shyer than the vultures ; another, *sans façon*, was catching a cow of the Sennār, to milk for our tea ; a third, rushing from kettle to kettle, waving a large spoon like a royal sceptre, in the supereminent dignity of his culinary functions ; and a fourth, swimming about in the green and yellow pool of the grotto, whose cool though dirty bath, protected by the invisible nymphs of the place, he preferred to any other.

As we had a march of twelve German miles before us to the next well, and preferred to get over the distance at once, with short alternations of rest, to encamping a whole day without any water, (for most of our skins had become useless since our melancholy adventure with the lion,) we left Jakdull on the 16th, at about five in the afternoon, and rode then six miles (thirty, English) at a stretch, through the interminable plain, which only here and there exhibited a few withered trees and rushes.

As the night came on, the moon's round orb appeared in the heavens, and our two black guides greeted the nocturnal goddess with a not inharmonious song, which especially struck me, as they were the first Africans I had heard sing

from the breast, like Europeans, instead of through the nose. The melody was cheerful, almost sentimental, and by no means disagreeable. It may serve as a sort of national portrait, to give a brief description of these two men. The eldest was a little, thick-set man, of about five and thirty, who had accompanied us from Meravi, and had received from us, on account of his savage *coiffure*, the name of the 'forest demon.' Thick, coal-black hair, which he wore without any covering, hung upon every side, down to his shoulders, like snakes, and mixed with an equally extensive and sable beard, little inferior in length. Large, snowy teeth, almost always visible, and little, brilliant eyes, relieved the round face which, unwashed as it was, resembled in colour an old, rusty copper kettle. His breast and shoulder-blades were so prominent and fleshy, as to exhibit, in the most extraordinary manner, both behind and before, the appearance of a female bosom; his legs, on the other hand, with their thick knees, were extremely thin, and almost destitute of calf—a deficiency common among the Arabs, and almost universal amongst the Barabras Dongolese, and other natives. On each cheek of our guide, three deep parallel lines were burned,

which are partly intended as ornament, partly a preventative of disease. For the last mentioned purpose, he also wore a bracelet of leather, with a locket of the like material, enclosing a written amulet. A dagger, on the left arm, counterbalanced this ornament, and over the shoulder, as we carry our guns, hung a sword with a crossed iron hilt.

I was informed at Kartum, that these weapons, here in universal use, are manufactured in Holland, and form an important item in their traffic with these countries. At any rate, the European work about them was not to be mistaken. With the exception of a little linen apron round the loins, this original, like his countrymen, went entirely naked, and very rarely, put on their leather sandals, or bound a cloth about his head. On the other hand, hair and body are constantly well rubbed in with grease; and he never neglects, after the servants' dinner, of which he partakes but slightly, carefully to scrape the remaining grease or butter from the dishes, to use as *costly ointment* for his body. Disgusting as this may appear, the result is equally gratifying, for it keeps off the insects, and imparts to the skin the greatest possible beauty. I never saw a woman in Europe, whose skin

had that exquisite dull gloss, that spotless smoothness and velvet softness, which is here almost universal, in both men and women ; and I must confess, that of all *nuances* of human complexions, the dark, reddish brown appears to me the most beautiful; whilst white has a sickly air, and the negro black seems burnt by the sun. When the sun shines upon the neck of an individual of the colour I have extolled, it looks like dark satin, or gold plate, and both silk and velvet lose by the comparison. For my part, I doubt not—as the Bible makes no distinct mention of the matter—that this was the normal complexion of Adam in Paradise, and that since then, his northern children have become pale from cold, trouble, want, and too much thought; whilst the people of the south have been baked black, like pies in an oven.

The powers of comprehension of Habib Allah (this is our German *Gottlieb* literally translated) were much weaker than those of his body, and his soul, in all probability, less beautiful than his hair.

It was often difficult to refrain from evincing impatience at his conduct. Thus it is perhaps useless, but nevertheless, a thing that gives great relief during a long and fatiguing journey, (just

like crying when we are in pain), to inquire whether one has much farther to go, whether one half or one third of the way is completed, how many hours one must yet ride, &c. &c. All these questions Habib Allah could never be made to comprehend, and his replies were invariably unsatisfactory; because *far*, according to his notions, included a day's journey or more, *near*, something less than a day's journey, but he never could understand a division of the way into parts, or even a calculation by hours. If we asked him, pointing to a mountain or some other distant object before us:—

“Is the place we are going to, before or behind that mountain?” No other reply was to be obtained, than—

“The place we are going to lies before and not behind us.”

Otherwise, he was always good tempered, and never grumbled. Indeed, laziness and cheerfulness, seem the principal features in the character of all his countrymen. Good-humoured and obliging, gifted with the keenest instinct, almost without wants, as hardy as the beasts of the field, contented with the slightest present, and looking upon the least smile of fortune as the greatest happiness, they seem to live in the

most perfect contentment, and enjoy perhaps the only true and practicable liberty. For he alone, who requires nothing for himself, and consequently needs not the assistance of others, can rightly call himself free—but what galley slaves are we Europeans in this respect !

This we felt at the close of our journey through the desert, when we were, without exception, reduced to rice without anything to flavour it, and a little putrid water. We ourselves, grew low-spirited and sulky ; all our European servants became obstinate and negligent, whilst these happy natives felt nothing of the kind, being indifferent to the temperature, content with any water, and satisfied with a little damped flour as nourishment. Habib Allah's spirits became even so elevated that in the most fearful heat, he would spring from his camel, and without delaying our march run by the side of the beasts, performing a sword dance, the grotesque steps of which, and odd twists of the body, compelled even the most dismal to smile. The more we laughed at him, the more pleased and flattered he felt.

Our second guide whom we had picked up at Magaga, was of a somewhat different sort, and a kind of dandy amongst his countrymen, much

more wide awake than Habib Allah, although no keener in intellect ; but more talkative, more disposed to joke, and in particular much vainer. This exhibited itself in his dress, for besides his much prettier apron, dagger and amulet, he wore glass beads of various colours round several parts of his body. His hair was twisted like a woman's, into a hundred plaits, and cut off half way down the neck, to precisely the same lengths. To keep this old Egyptian head-dress constantly in order, he carried a large rush behind his right ear, in the same manner as the clerks in our counting-houses do their pens. When he was not speaking, he sang, notwithstanding he had to run by our side on foot almost the whole way, whilst Habib Allah generally rode, and but seldom vacated his seat upon the dromedary in his favour. They were otherwise excellent friends, although Habib Allah, most probably as being the oldest, always seemed to preserve a certain tone of superiority towards his companion.

We could not reach the longed for Well of Abadlech, until eleven o'clock at night on the 17th, the beasts were almost exhausted, and we ourselves dead tired. The camel, as is well known, has been termed the ship of the desert,

and a celebrated traveller asserts, that the movement of the dromedary resembles that of a vessel. This, however, I think is very absurd. In its slow pace you are certainly rocked backwards and forwards, but so roughly, that it loses all likeness to sailing. But its trot jolts so violently, that on a long journey it usually causes a permanent head ache, which is only relieved by some hours of repose. For hypochondriacs, the motion may be healthy, for the whole body gets shaken up like a sack of meal in the mill. To this must be added, the badly constructed saddles, whose painful effect upon the sitting organs, all the cushions and carpets bound upon it are never quite able to remedy. On my dromedary, a fine animal, almost equal to an elephant in size, I sat upon the tower of cushions about as high as the box of an English stage-coach. The owner of this dromedary, which enjoyed an especial celebrity in the neighbourhood, obstinately refused to give it up when the Kascheff demanded the necessary beasts for me at Meravi, (demands which may not be denied, but which the government pays for), until the Kascheff sent a messenger, who, laconically intimating to him—"in one hour, your dromedary, or your nose and ears,"—no longer left room for a doubt. Be

not too much shocked at this tyranny. Since Mehemet Ali's reign here, the threat of cutting off noses and ears, has become as purely figurative a saying, as our "I'll pull your skin over your ears." The former phrase here simply signifies a few blows with the Kurbatsch, which soon make an end of a matter; instead of which we prosecute a poor devil, which occupies a thousand times more time, and costs a great deal of money,—both more valuable to an Arab than his skin. But with regard to the law of demand we are little better off at home, for when they take the horses of our landholders, farmers, and rustics, to exercise in the militia, having already taken the men themselves, which I do not find fault with, as it is done with a praiseworthy and beneficial object, I see in both countries, as far as compulsion is concerned, little difference. Power rules in fact, there as here, only that we have it so methodically organized, that the bare idea of resistance is quite out of the question, whilst here it is still frequently attempted and not unfrequently with success by individuals. The world is the world, and its principal features change every where but little, the most indisputable right will ever remain that of the most powerful, and the old French cynic will still rightly say, "*Qu'il y*

aura toujours et partout beaucoup de fripons, et encore plus de dupes." Certes, the modifications are innumerable, and these brilliant variations, which the great spirit constantly composes upon the theme, man, extremely wonderful. Here absolutism still rules, *par la grace de Dieu, et du Kurbasch*. With us, people fancy themselves happier, when a constitutional apparatus is set in motion. But even there, power carries the day, and like a skilful pleader mystifying a stupid rustic, a nation is often induced by means of bribed representatives, to lay burdens upon its shoulders, which neither minister nor despot, under other circumstances, had ever dared to hint at without trembling. However, it is much better to laugh at all this than to cry, and content oneself with things as they are, and must be. In this respect I look upon the Chinese as very wise people.

The meat we had brought with us from Jakdull was putrid before we could eat of it; the water of the well we stopped at was likewise foul and brackish. We had no more bread or wine, a little rice therefore furnished our supper, as it had our breakfast that morning, and was destined to do on the following one.

Whilst they were unpacking the next morn-

ing, I had some cushions and a carpet placed beneath the shade of an old tree, and rested with my head close to the trunk, until they brought back my dromedary. As I arose, I heard a hissing noise behind me, and upon turning round beheld a large coal-black snake, which still half concealed in the hollow trunk of the tree, lay with its head coiled up in a ring upon my cushion, close to the place where my head had left its impression. There is no doubt but that the snake, attracted by the warmth and softness, had remained a considerable time in this attitude by my side, and that its angry hissing was solely caused by my rapid rising. It was about twice or thrice as thick as my finger, and according to the natives of a poisonous sort. Thus one often escapes the greatest dangers of whose existence one is not even cognizant.

The portion of the desert we had ridden through in this last day and night, best deserves the name of desert, for it consisted of a boundless plain, smooth as a lake, and devoid of the slightest symptoms of grass, yet the sand continued firm, and was in many places thickly strewn with black rough stones. It was not until the close of our march that we reached an acacia thicket, in which the growls of some hyænas

rather disturbed our cattle. We dismounted, in order, if possible, to shoot one of them, for which the moon shone with sufficient brightness, but could not overtake them in the rapidity of their flight. After midnight we at length descried the houses of *Metemma*, since the destruction of Schendy the capital of the district, where all were yet wrapped in profound sleep, and it took us a long time before we could find a man to lead us to our tents by the Nile, as the river only reaches the town at very high water, but was now running a good mile from it.

Thirsty and fatigued as we were, you can imagine with what delight we hailed the cooling flood and intoxicated ourselves in its nectar; from this time I became more than ever conscious what veritable nectar fresh water can become. Our bath the next morning afforded us scarcely less pleasure, although we were frequently warned against the rapidly increasing number of crocodiles, which at the rising of the Nile become especially dangerous. It is curious that these animals are much more to be dreaded at certain places than at others, and not always according to their numbers; in Assuan, for instance, they have never seen a man attacked by them, whilst at Quadi-

hasa, it is necessary to be especially on one's guard; at Dongola they are again more harmless, although more numerous.

The Kascheff of Quadihasa told me, when I was there, that the year before he went with a friend to bathe near the cataracts; scarcely had they advanced a few feet into the river, where the water did not half cover their bodies, when a crocodile dived up beside them, seized his companion with its tail, and instantly vanished with him beneath the water, shortly afterwards he saw the monster again appear at some distance, playing with his prey like a cat with a mouse, until he landed on a little island, and there before the eyes of the Kascheff began to devour the apparently lifeless body; the same evening a boy and a goat became the prey of another crocodile. The principal danger consists in this reptile burying itself in the sand of the river-bed, and then suddenly bursting forth, like the ant-lion seizing its victim. When the crocodiles are swimming towards you from a distance, it is much easier to escape them, yet they have been seen in Metemma to chase men in the middle of the river; and it is asserted that when they have the choice between a black and a white man, they invariably choose the latter.

Sometimes they even pursue men upon the dry land, when, however, it is merely necessary to run round in a circle to render capture impossible from the clumsiness of their movements.

At ten o'clock we visited the Kascheff of Metemma, with several other Turks and Arabs, amongst whom the Sheik Bischir of the race of the Dschalin Arabs, especially attracted my notice, because he is mentioned by Rüppel, who pretends that this very trustworthy man, had given him information regarding the ruins of the town of Mandera, never yet visited by Europeans, of which he spoke as an eye-witness. We found, however, as from the length of time that has elapsed was to be presumed, that the Sheik Bischir whom we had before us, was only the son of him known to Herr Rüppel. He too had once heard Mandera talked of, but denied that his father had ever been there, or had ever boasted of it to an European. From him, then, no sufficient information was to be obtained ; however, I afterwards found a slave of the Kascheff, who confirmed the fact of the existence of the ruins of Mandera, at the same time stating that Mandera was neither a town nor a village, but a *mountain*, at the summit and base of which some ruins of buildings are

standing, but amongst which neither columns nor pyramids are to be seen. Some miles thence stood a half deserted village, the name of which he could no longer remember ; he also gave the ruins a different position from Herr Rüppel, viz. more southward, and nearer to the Nile. We shall afterwards see that the information of this man was true in the first respect, a great rarity in these countries, but in his second assertion he was mistaken. Herr Rüppel's information was incorrect, although he concludes the paragraph thereto relating with his accustomed impudence :—

“ The above account of Mandera was mentioned two years later by M. Caillaud in his Travels, vol. iii. p. 138 : *I should like to know whether he there merely copies me, or whether he also has received these accounts from other sources.*”

M. Caillaud has truly no need to copy from Herr Rüppel ; there is no traveller more conscientious, more precise, and fonder of truth, or more indifferent to personal exertion than M. Caillaud, as I have had frequent opportunities to remark, and to feel deeply indebted to him ; for although M. Caillaud is no great scholar, there is no safer guide than he where he

has been himself. With regard to Manderah he is, however, also insufficiently informed, and merely related what he had heard.

An upper Kawass of Mehemet Ali had now joined the suite of the Kascheff, to whom his generous master had lent a capital of 50,000 piastres for two years without interest, upon the sole condition that he should purchase cattle here and in Sennār, and bring them to Egypt, where the whole profit of reselling them was to remain his property. As cattle are so cheap here, that a camel costs no more than 80 francs, the finest draught ox 20 to 30 francs, and a sheep but a single franc, whilst in Egypt the prices stand 6 and 10 times higher (sheep often 20 times) there is no doubt that with all expenses of the transport, and in spite of the great loss upon the journey, which is principally to be ascribed to the very bad contrivances for this purpose, and the total want of veterinary surgeons, of which I shall hereafter give a more particular account, the gain must have been very considerable, and have far exceeded the capital employed. Mehemet Ali's sole object in this, is (as you will remember from his own expression) to exhibit to the Egyptians the more forcibly the great advantages of this traffic, and thereby to make it popular, which must be

highly beneficial to both countries, as there is here an almost total want of capital, there a still greater deficiency in cattle, as well for the cultivation of the fields as for the working the *sakis*, which yearly require so many thousand oxen, which never last long, from hard service and the frequent epidemics.

As in this region, far and wide, no single tree was to be seen, the dreadful heat detained us the whole day in our tents, which we did not venture to leave till sunset. For this the night indemnified us. The moon was almost full, and the dark blue heaven sprinkled with a thousand fleecy clouds, which, as if chasing one another, danced merrily athwart its surface ; by this light we took our meal close to the water in the open air, and found it so light that we afterwards actually undertook to read by moonshine a book about the moon itself, which I had accidentally taken with me, whilst we by turns regarded through our telescopes the brilliant planet, and compared the man in the moon with the fantastic map of the Munich astronomers before us. The thermometer stood this night at 28 Reaumur, (95 Fahrenheit) ; all appetite for eating vanishes with this temperature ; the Nile water alone affords the greatest gastrono-

mical enjoyment, especially its unlimited quantity, to which the dried dates of Sokkot impart a still more agreeable flavour. If the camel is the ship, the date is the bread of the desert, and one soon acquires the habit of carrying a handful of this fruit in one's pocket. The date refreshes, nourishes and passes away the time like the pipe, on the long rides in the desert, melting gradually in one's mouth whilst giving way to meditation.

We found the Nile already considerably swollen, and every moment we heard the loose sand undermined by its foaming waves, slipping from its steep bank, and often sprinkling the water so high, that we at first ascribed it to a large fish, or a crocodile, until we discovered the true reason.

On returning the Kascheff's visit, on the 20th of May, we had leisure to inspect Metemma in detail, which is almost as large as Dongola, and, like it, built of dried bricks; but upon the whole, having a much more wretched appearance. The fury of Desterdar Bay, which was here the cause of nearly 6000 people, guilty as well as innocent, being stabbed, or cut down, or thrown into the flames of the burning houses, whereby Metemma, like Schendy, has been

almost depopulated, still exhibits the most melancholy consequences; he branded the symbol of slavery upon all women and girls who survived, and sent them to Kahira; however, Mehemet Ali, upon the first news he obtained of these proceedings, commanded them to be allowed to return in freedom, and punished Desterdar for his cruelty, as severely as it was then practicable. The present Kascheff was able to give us an account of these incidents, as he came here with Desterdar, as a young man, and since then had enjoyed the post he occupied, much longer than is customary with the Egyptian Government. He appeared to us an honourable, and consequently a poor, man, who knew little of the comforts of life, and was only able to regale us with eau sucrée at his poor dwelling: he endeavoured to excuse Desterdar, whose cruelty he could not deny, on the ground that he was most violently excited to it by the natives. For after he had laid waste Schendy, at that time a very flourishing commercial town, as a sacrifice to the *manes* of Ismail Pasha, he announced to the rest of the land a universal amnesty, and became the guest of the Sheik of Metemma. After a grand conciliation feast, which was held there, one of the natives approached

him, as if with the view of asking a favour ; scarcely, however, had Desterdar turned towards him, when the resolute Negro snatched a lance from the hand of a bystanding soldier of the Sheik, and thrust Desterdar so violently beneath the shoulder, that the handle broke off, and with the iron still in the wound, he fell to the ground, where he remained lying for several minutes in a state of insensibility. The criminal was neither impaled nor tortured, as is generally related, but immediately cut in pieces by the followers of Desterdar. The succeeding tragedy was as horrible as it was senseless ; for the guilt of *one, all* the inhabitants of a town were destroyed. The Sheik, himself and all his guests, also perished.

It is truly surprising, that after all these horrors, the neighbourhood, during the 15 years which have since elapsed, has been able so much to recover its population, as is really the case, so that it now reckons thousands of inhabitants, following the most various pursuits ; amongst other articles, they manufacture in this town a most beautiful crimson cotton stuff, a coarse kind of grey linen, and very elegant mats, and other articles of palm leaves ; ostrich feathers were offered us in great quantities, for a mere

trifle; and I have subsequently much regretted my neglect, in not purchasing more of them.*

We disencamped, and sailed, with the Kascheff, up the Nile to Schendy, which is two miles distant, on the opposite bank, but which is marked, on Rüppel's and other maps, as actually opposite Metemma, and even more southward still. Korschud Pasha, the general Governor of the whole Sudan, who generally passes some months here during the rainy season, has for this purpose built himself an extensive palace of clay, close to the river, about a quarter of a mile from the town, which was now assigned to me as my dwelling. Neither the outward walls of the building, nor the interior of the rooms, were whitened, all the walls were of rough earth, which is watered five or six times a day; even the divans themselves are formed of clay, upon which mats and carpets were laid; the roofs were of rough beams of wood, with the bark of the palm tree thickly thatched above them, upon which the mortar of the upper terrace on the roof is plastered. The windows are mere

* A pound for a franc, which, even in Kahira, costs 30, and more.

wooden trellis work, with shutters of unplanned boards, carelessly nailed together, with broad cracks between them. Nevertheless, the rooms were, without exception, of respectable dimensions, very high, airy, and therefore comparatively cool. This is the general custom of the land ; every body lives so, and nothing but the size of the rooms distinguishes the rich from the poor. At night, they generally sleep outside the house, in the open air, on a carpet—an example which we followed, and found excessively agreeable. The screaming of pelicans, and large frogs, was heard through the whole night, like the noise in a Jews' schoolroom. The river is here mostly enlivened by plenty of birds, while geese and ducks are especially to be seen in great numbers.

As I bathed myself, early before sunset, whilst several women were washing close by, they made signs to me that a crocodile was near, and I could really see the animal raise his head once or twice from the water, at about twenty paces distance. However, it was only a small specimen, to which I did not consider it necessary to give place. My dragoman fetched a few Arabs, who placed themselves in a circle round me, and constantly beat the water with their

sticks, which gave me time quietly to finish my bath, without the crocodile again becoming visible. The Kascheff, however, blamed my carelessness, and backed his arguments by the following almost incredible anecdote, which some of his followers present were ready to swear to the truth of; however, true or untrue, it is of a description to be received in a new edition of the works of Baron Munchausen.

“It is not long ago,” began the Kascheff, “that a man from Berber established himself here, with whom we were all acquainted. One morning, he led his horse to water, in the Nile, and whilst the animal quenched its thirst, bound the rope he held it by, round his arm, and knelt down to say his prayers. At the moment he lay with his face to the ground, a crocodile, after their usual style of attack, brushed him, with his tail, into the water, and swallowed him. The horse, being excessively shocked at this proceeding, made every effort to escape; and as the arm of his dead master, in the belly of the crocodile, to which the rope was attached, could no longer let it go, and the rope would not break, the terror-struck horse not only drew the crocodile out of the water, but even dragged it over the sand to the door of his own stall, where the

family coming to his aid, soon killed it, and found in its interior the lifeless body of the unfortunate man, still unconsumed."

Towards midday, a hundred Negro recruits, intended for the war in the Hedschas, came here to embark. They were all dressed in white linen shirts, and were shut up, till the next morning, to prevent them from deserting, in the court of the castle. I visited them at night, with their Doctor, shortly after supper; they all lay in the deepest sleep, but at the same time, in such grotesque, strange positions, as I have never observed in Europeans; their shirts, without exception, pulled over their heads, for this is the only part of the body the natives carefully cover during sleep.

The mortality amongst these people, apparently so robust and strong, is fearful; and many thousands of them have already found their graves in the Hedschas, where they chiefly perish, not by the weapons of their foes, nor even the climate, which, although unhealthy, does not materially differ from their own, but—from home-sickness (*heimweh*). The annual Slave-hunts of the wild Negroes in the interior, deliver up to the Government these unfortunate creatures; a cruelty which is inexcusable, but so

common with all nations in the interior of Africa, and also so profitable to the governors of these provinces, who, at the same time, carry on a private trade with the slaves thus caught, as well as providing for their own necessities, that it would be very difficult for Mehemet Ali radically to do away with them.* The further one advances in this direction, the more one certainly remarks that the Viceroy's personal authority becomes weaker, and that the respect for him, as master, is more immediately felt for his representatives, who are more feared, and from whom more is expected—they being on the spot, and Mehemet Ali at a distance.

In Kartum and Kordosan, his governors are in this respect more powerful than he ; and as long as they retain these posts, he is compelled to treat them with much caution, to secure himself from their rebelling, especially since his star has become so faded, by European interference. The consequences here are doubly to be regretted, as there is so much to be done, so

* According to the papers, he has now forbidden them ; but I doubt as to this order being carried out by the subalterns, as well as of the real intentions of the higher powers.

much misery and barbarism to be softened, and so much fresh happiness, well-being, even riches, could be created, if the people and country were only in some measure civilized—this the shattered power of Mehemet Ali can no longer undertake to effect.

My dragoman was very ill in the evening, with a contagious fever, which compelled me to remain here for a few days; however, a little bleeding, and mustard plasters, soon hastened his recovery; and during this time, a boat arrived here, bearing an English flag, containing Dr. Holroy, who had travelled in these regions for the past year, and was now returning from Kordosan. This was an agreeable diversion; and I passed several very pleasant hours in conversation with this enterprising and well-informed young man. He carried with him a fine collection of weapons, and narrated much that was interesting of Kordosan; amongst other things, he spoke of a free race of the Schallie Arabs, where it is customary with the women to marry, only under the condition of having the fourth day to *themselves*, i. e. on this day to dispose of their persons as they choose. In which case, they receive at the wedding a formal written attestation,

that he to whom they resolve to devote their holiday, shall, during the day, to which he is lawfully entitled, stand and be possessed of every right otherwise appertaining to the husband. At the capital, Lobeid (not Obeid, as it is marked in the maps), there is another curious custom. Many women and girls unite themselves to waylay solitary travellers, surrounding them in the middle of the road, and demanding a backshish from them, for which the traveller is allowed to select one of the troop, as an indemnification. Should, however, the traveller refuse to enter into the contract, the ladies attack him all at once, and apply to him, instead of their sweet favours, according to the greater or lesser measure of their indignation, 25 to 50 very serious arguments *a posteriori*. Mr. Holroyd regarded this, at first, as a mere fable, when one evening, late, as he was returning from the Governor's country house, with a young guide, who ran by his side on foot, he was himself attacked by these female highwaymen; he, for his part, easily defended his person, as he was on horseback; but the young guide was caught, and in attempting to cut his way through, was thrown down, held fast, turned round, and had not escaped from his melancholy fate, had not a

troop of soldiers from Lobeid at that moment appeared upon the road, on beholding whom the women let their prisoner escape, and laughing and screaming, escaped in the bushes.

In Lobeid not only all dead cattle, but even the deceased slaves, are thrown in the streets to rot in the open air, the stench arising therefrom appears less disagreeable to the natives than the trouble of removing the corpses.

Lobeid is the most considerable and populous place in the Sudan under the Egyptian rule, it contains more than 20,000 inhabitants, who however chiefly dwell in Toguls, tent-like reed huts of elegant form: the higher classes alone dwell in clay houses.

The whole of northern Kordosan is an immense plain, covered with acacias and mimosas, partly standing alone, partly united in forests, full of giraffes, herds of ostriches and various tribes of antelopes; alluvial sand, yielding iron ore, which the natives melt and form into excellent weapons, every where covers the land. Solitary mountains stand around Lobeid, the Kurbatsch el Kordosan a Bughër, &c. without exception of granite, the principal stone of middle Kordosan parallel to the grau-

wacke. Lions, panthers, and leopards are common.

The abundance of cattle in southern Sennar and Kordosan, Mr. Holroy described as extraordinary, many of the inhabitants possess herds of more than 10,000 head, who feed on the savannahs, which proves there is plenty of water under ground. Altogether the Doctor thought that these lands would belong to the richest in Africa, if a canal could only be dug from Dschebel Moigl on the Bahr el Asrack to the Nile, which would not be attended with the slightest difficulty; thus between these two rivers, as far as Kartum, a Delta would be gained as fertile as lower Egypt. Here indeed a true gold-mine might be found by Mehemet Ali, whence, by the cultivation of cotton, sugar-canes, indigo, senna, which already grows wild every where, the most enormous revenues might be raised.

Of the truth of this assertion I subsequently fully convinced myself.

Mr. Holroy brought bad news from the Abyssinian frontier, where the troops of the Viceroy, at the annual slave hunt, had neglected to respect the foreign territories, and had committed the greatest excesses—as no attention was paid to the complaints of the Abyssinians, and

2000 of the troops of the Governor of Kartum recommenced this year their usual business, an army of 30,000 Abyssinians came to meet 1200 of the Egyptian soldiers, and took the general and other officers prisoners. They have now sent in a list of all the prisoners, and fixed the ransom for each; on the other hand, they threatened, within a certain time, to make eunuchs of these unfortunate creatures without exception. This is on the whole much the fashion here. Thus, in consequence of a former revolution in Darfur, a brother of the Emperor there has taken refuge in Lobeid, where he is kept by Mehemet Ali, for a fitting opportunity, and in the meantime maintained according to his rank; besides this, however, the Prince carries on a very profitable trade with young eunuchs, his Highness even condescends, with his royal son, for their especial imperial amusement, to perform the greater part of the necessary operations. This is done in the following manner:—the unfortunate victims (chiefly children) are buried in fresh sand, nothing but their head and the parts to be operated upon remain uncovered, the latter are then separated from the body by a single cut of a knife, and the bleeding stopped by immediately

pouring melted lead upon the parts. In forty days all is again healed, and it may appear incomprehensible to us, but it is a fact, that in spite of this barbarous treatment ten out of twelve survive the operation. Still more horrible than this, Mr. Holroy told me that a short time ago an European who follows the slave trade there, as a speculation, sold fifteen children, which he had purchased, to the Sultan, for the operation, under the condition, that instead of money five of them should be returned to him as eunuchs completely restored to health. In Upper Egypt there are also two Christian (Koptic) monasteries whose chief revenues are drawn from the manufacture of eunuchs, and this they carry on upon so grand a scale, that almost all Egypt and a part of Turkey is supplied by them.

Otherwise, the slaves in Kordosan, as every where in the East, are by no means cruelly treated, yet Mr. Holroy (but again by an European), saw two men whose noses had been cut off, on account of attempted flight. This is very horrible, but is not extended to slaves only, as generally speaking in these wild countries, every man of property can do pretty much as he likes with those beneath him.

Mr. Holroy was delighted with the hunting he had seen, of which he carried with him many trophies; besides these he had with him several slaves, a girl and five boys, as well as six remarkable goats from Kordosan, graceful animals speckled with red, black, white and doe colours, much prettier of their kind, than their human companions. He also lamented the imperfection of all the maps of the Nile land, which he had brought with him from Europe. He was himself busy in the manufacture of a new one, and had already corrected about 300 false names, and some 20 false turns of the Nile, in the best English maps by Arrowsmith.

It was very fortunate for my sick dragoman, that an English Doctor, like a *Deus ex machina*, here came to his assistance, otherwise we should perhaps have had to stay much longer. On this occasion, Mr. Holroy told me, how he himself had been ill of a deadly fever, and at first had attempted to cure himself, but in vain, till he at length resolved blindly to trust himself to a native Faki, who luckily succeeded in "curing him within a week, in a most diabolical manner," as he expressed himself.

Thus the time passed more agreeably than I could have hoped, with the amusing conversation

of the English Doctor ; and although I felt myself almost as sick as my Dragoman, and was especially suffering from a most painful depression of the whole nervous system, I still employed my leisure abroad, and particularly paid several visits to Schendy. It is a melancholy sight, to see this town, which once counted 50,000 inhabitants, in its present state. Its ruined and long deserted houses, on all sides occupying the surrounding fields, which have likewise become a mere desert. Only here and there, a pointed thatched roof is seen to rise, announcing a solitary inhabited house in the great city of the Dead ; all the rest are roofless and empty, like the little clay palace standing almost in the centre, in which Ismail Pasha met his tragical end, and where the traitorous torch merely intended to illuminate the bundles of straw scattered around for predetermined vengeance, was doomed by fate, to cause the annihilation of a great province, with more than the half of its inhabitants. By a peculiar fatality, the Sheik who planned and carried out the conspiracy, as well as his son, entirely escaped all punishment and revenge. He still lives among the Arabs of the Desert, and Mehemet Ali has never taken any measures to secure his arrest ; indeed I

have been told, that his son has long since returned and lived for years on an island not far from Meroe, where all his other relations frequently visit, without the government taking the slightest notice. Mehemet Ali, who is a better politician than the Desterdar, in the highest degree disapproved of his conduct, and has since done every thing in his power to cause it to be forgotten. The greater part of the Sheiks in this region, of whom several visited me, receive regular salaries from him, and Sheik Bischir gets monthly 500 piastres from the government here, a considerable sum. I trust no one will blame me, for not further alluding to Ismail Pasha's catastrophe, as the most exact details have been given and repeated, *usque ad nauseam*, by every recent traveller.

CHAPTER V.

THE RUINS OF MESSAOURAT AND EL-AUVATEP.

It was now time to prepare for an excursion to the ruins of Messaourat; a tour attended with much difficulty, because it must be effected with great rapidity, in consequence of the total want of water in the desert. For my safety the Emir Bischir, by command of the Governor, accompanied me with eight of his chosen men. Shortly before sunset we left Korschud's palace, and it was already dark before passing, for the last time, through Schendy, we reached the end of these melancholy ruins. Immediately afterwards, a terrible thunder-storm gathered in the sky; flashes of lightning crossed the firmament

from every side, redly illuminating from time to time the surrounding desolation, like a spectral apparition of the flames by which the city was for ever laid waste. Upon us, however, this artillery of Heaven had no effect, though a heavy shower coming on compelled us to seek a shelter in the nearest village. But it was impossible to endure long the little hot rooms of the rustics, full as they were of every description of dirt and insects; I therefore had our two smallest tents, which were very diminutive, and otherwise merely used as entrances to the larger ones, pitched by the side of a fire kindled with difficulty, during the unremitting rolling of the thunder. We here rested in tolerably security from the rain, whilst Sheik Bischir, with his servants, dromedaries, and horses, carelessly reclined in the open air, exposed to the streaming torrents. This mighty Sheik, a clever and enterprising man, has from the beginning kept on good terms with the government, and is now one of its most powerful supporters amongst the Arabs, which is the more important, as all the other Sheiks, in whose breast the past still rankles, in spite of all apparent submissiveness, are little to be trusted, a case by the way common to all Oriental rulers. Sheik Bischir is, as

I learnt from the Kascheff, bitterly hated by these chiefs, on account of his devotion to the present government, and therefore rarely shows himself amongst them without a numerous guard.

After some hours, the rain ceased, and allowed us to continue our journey, which we pursued during the whole night, with monotonous restlessness. Towards morning, we passed through an extensive acacia forest, the trees of which, in consequence of the vivifying storm of the previous night, were covered as with us in spring, all over with little sea-green leaves, of a beautifully fresh and glittering colour ; the air, too, was cooler, a gentle zephyr rustled through the boughs, and bore an aromatic fragrance on its wings. We encamped in the neighbourhood of a village ; and immediately after breakfast, I went out with Ackermann to shoot something for dinner. We killed, this time, besides the turtle-doves so easily attainable, a young wild goose for our table, and many smaller birds, which, with truly human cruelty, we shot merely for the sake of their beautiful plumage. On the Nile, whose bank is here tolerably picturesque and bushy, and close by 14 pelicans gravely occupied in fishing, we found a female crocodile,

with its offspring, scarcely 3 feet in length ; the latter received a fruitless bullet, and then hastily slipped, like a frog, after its cumbersome mamma, into the water. On our return, they announced to me the presence of three pilgrims from Darfur, who, I was told, were engaged in a journey to Mecca. They were well-grown Negroes, each with a long blue shirt, and sandals tied with coloured leather straps, and seemed to be cunning personages. They were unanimous in praising the Sultan, and told us that Kobbe (as the Geographers inform us) was not the capital of the empire, and the residence of its king, but Tendelti Tassir, which is marked in no map. Kobbe, they said, was only the capital of the merchants, the other much grander, and more extensive—the residence of the Monarch and the grandees. According to their expressions, a very strict line appeared to be drawn in this country, between the nobility and the commercial ranks. Probably they are not yet provided with titled bankers. According to their account, the Royal residence is only a good day's journey distant from Kobbe. They asserted that, to the best of their knowledge, there was no large river in the whole country, but many brooks which became rivers in the

rainy season, besides numerous wells and tanks, so that nowhere, but in the neighbouring desert, is there any deficiency of water. The land is fruitful, and abounds in forests. Amongst the garden fruits, they mentioned oranges, lemons, melons, and others with names unknown to me—the vegetables much the same as those in Sudan and Kordosan. The Sultan, they alleged, had for some time begun to introduce the Nizam, which a white man commanded, whom the Sultan held in high estimation; but the natives did not like this service, and the troops were much inferior in discipline to the Egyptian soldiers whom they had seen in Kordosan and the Sudan. The Sultan also possesses a few cannon, without, however, having as yet been able to use them.

They had all many amulets and strings of beads hanging about them, and one of them a sort of pocket book, in which was a bright, uncouth painting of the sacred Kabba, which he at first hesitated to shew us. He who appeared to be the best educated of the three, afterwards told us of some tribes who dwelt in the highest mountains of their country, who had no religion, not even so much, he added, as a Giaour (Christian dog). On that account, they have

regular annual hunts after these people, and use the prisoners as slaves, over which the owner exercises as unlimited a power as over his cattle. The Government, otherwise, appears mild, and in its way tolerably just.

These people could speak a little Arabic, and understood the language of Kordosan, which one of the companions of Sheik Bischir also spoke, and who served us during the conversation as interpreter.

The portion of the desert into which we were about to advance, and which extends as far as the Red Sea, is only inhabited by a few wandering Bedouin tribes, who are only nominally, and not all even this, under the rule of Mehemet Ali, consequently regard all travellers as their prey. The perfect safety which one enjoys in the states of the Egyptian ruler, now ceases, and Sheik Bischir warned us that an attack of robbers was possible, and we therefore ought to keep our arms in readiness. At the same time, he offered me to exchange my dromedary, upon which we Europeans always find ourselves in a somewhat uncomfortable position, for his mare,—an offer which I thankfully accepted.

About five o'clock in the evening, we set out on our journey, and soon reached a magnificent

plain, which, as far as the eye could reach, was covered with tall rushes, and groups of dwarf acacias, and mimosa bushes. In the distance, solitary mountains, sometimes pointed, sometimes table-formed, or rugged, rose before us, and the appearance of the whole land, at their feet, showed plainly that universal cultivation must at one time have existed there ; the traces of which, despite the drying up of old canals, and exhaustion of the wells, still, after thousands of years, remain visible ; I am therefore convinced, that nothing but the universal presence of water could preserve those symptoms of fertility which still surrounded us ; and that care and culture could again render these regions capable of maintaining a large population. The sky was clouded, which much diminished the heat, and rendered the night of such pitchy darkness, that none but Arabs, with their dog-like instinct, which may well be termed a sixth sense, could discover the track.

Through this darkness our march, which no longer followed a caravan road, but went straight through the high rushes, had already lasted some hours, when our people suddenly stopped, because that the sixth sense, above alluded to, had, God knows how, become aware

of the fact, that men were encamped in a neighbouring thicket. The Lieutenant of the Sheik immediately called with a loud voice to demand who and what they were. But before I proceed farther, I must briefly describe the followers of the Sheik. There were only eight of them, as I have stated—but apparently men to be relied upon ; all black, like their master, and strong and muscularly built, which was the easier to judge of, as they were almost naked, and of marked, though not of unpleasant features. A band round the waist, and a cloth about the head, with sandals on their feet, composed, with their arms, their only attire ; the Lieutenant alone wore, over all, a sort of loose blue blouse, and the Sheik a full striped mantle, which resembled the Roman toga, with a very voluminous turban, of the same colour, for his head. All rode white dromedaries, of the Sheik's own distinguished breed, whose largest possessions were in Berber, where the territory of the Fischeh Arabs begins, whose dromedaries only yield in quality to those of Nedschi. All were completely armed according to the fashion of the country, i. e., each had a spear, a round or oval shield of crocodile, or hippopotamus skin, through which a musket bullet alone can pene-

trate, a dagger fastened to the upper part of the arm, and a long straight cross-handled sword, hanging over the shoulder, as I have already described. Guns appear little in use here; and those which may have been on hand, have been taken from the conquered Arabs by the troops of Mehemet Ali. There was not a fire-arm in the whole troop, save a pair of antique pistols belonging to the Sheik, which his servant carried in his girdle, together with a small powder flask. All were excellent riders, and guided their dromedaries so skilfully, that the rapidity and ease of their movements, yielded little to those of the horses, whilst, on the other hand, *my* suite managed their beasts with great difficulty, which, however, were of a far inferior description. This caused frequent and unwelcome stoppages in order that the loiterers might join us.

Scarcely had the question above mentioned been put to the suspicious strangers, than the reply sounded in our ears, which our dragoman instantly translated, "Come on, and you will soon learn!" In a moment, all the dromedaries of the Sheik Bischir were on the ground, and the riders dismounted, of whom, nevertheless, but the half at first cautiously advanced, with drawn swords, and covered with their shields, in

the direction of the voice they had heard in the darkness. We remained quiet, with cocked pistols, and awaited the result, intending to be guided by circumstances. In a few seconds we heard a loud battle cry, and several sword blows rattling on the shields, and were about, as things now seemed to become serious, to advance also, when the Sheik entreated us to reserve ourselves as a last resource, upon which he himself, and the rest of his people, joined in the *melée*. The loud threatening words, which he thundered to the combatants, seemed to produce an immediate armistice (for seeing nothing, we were obliged to judge by what we heard). The clash of weapons ceased, but the shouts on both sides were redoubled. After about five minutes, this also suddenly ceased; our party came hastily back, sprang upon their dromedaries, and hastened with us thence at a rapid pace. To our inquisitive questions, they replied, that the strangers had declared themselves to be travelling *Dschellahs*, and pretended that they had taken us for robbers.* The Sheik added, that he

* *Dschellah* properly means merchant; as, however, nobody here travels but to trade, it also signifies a traveller. The most correct translation would perhaps be "wandering merchant."

had allowed himself to be appeased by it, though knowing it to be a mere pretence, as there was no caravan road there where dschellahs were likely to be met with. It was better, however, to make off, as it was impossible to know whether a much stronger number might not be close at hand, of which these were merely an advanced post. Indeed, we met, before we had proceeded a thousand paces farther, a second troop of similar dschellahs, on a narrow and difficult passage, over a rough stony soil, full of thorns ; but these were probably less numerous, as, on being challenged by our leader, they immediately took to flight. I had, by the way, not even for a moment the slightest fear for our safety, as the fidelity of our escort was to be depended on, and the number of our fire-arms would certainly have turned the victory in our favour, even against numbers five times superior.

An hour later, just before midnight, precisely as the moon rose, gigantic and fiery from the horizon, it lighted before us the imposing ruins of Messaourat, situate in the middle of an extensive valley, surrounded by solitary sandstone mountains of the wildest shape, in the frequently recurring form of that species of

mountain which gives them the appearance of being crowned with towers, walls, and turrets upon their summits. In the mean time, we were so fatigued that we regarded but little the splendours exhibited by the moonlight ; and after taking a rapidly boiled cup of tea, we spread our carpets upon the floor of our tents, and with our saddles for pillows, slept till the break of day as comfortably as upon beds of down.

The ruins of Messaourat (each vowel in this word is distinctly pronounced), the outermost walls of which, according to Caillaud, measure 185 metres in breadth and 248 in length, are, according to my conviction, the remains of a royal country palace, provided with every necessary addition of houses, courts, stables, &c. to which two little exquisite temples, (quite in the style of our court chapels) were added, and to these, doubtless, surrounding gardens,* in the picturesque fertile valley, were not wanting. All the buildings of Messaourat are, without

* Caillaud takes these ruins for a school of the priests, I do not however share this opinion. The rooms are too gaily decorated, everything is too far removed from the grave splendour of the priestly establishments of the olden time.

exception of freestone, to which the neighbouring mountains added the most beautiful red sandstone. All is elegantly carved, and of the most massive character, but nowhere are to be seen either the colossal proportions, or the artistic finish of the old Egyptian monuments, and it would perhaps be as well beforehand to remark, that all the ruins we saw on this expedition, are of a similar character, but bearing great affinity to the remarkable remains at Dschebel-Barkal, and in some measure to those at Meroe, with, however, one very obvious difference ; this consists in the mixture of the Greek, or rather Roman style, with the already quite corrupted Egyptian, which preponderates in all these buildings, in which the elegant rather than the sublime appears to be aimed at. I therefore regard them as more modern than the monuments of Dschebel-Barkal, and scarcely older than, or perhaps contemporary with, the last Ptolemies, if not with the latest Roman ages. The often trivial ornaments, the style of building, evidently taken from the Greek, mixed with the Egyptian, the absence of all grand masses and the great effects resulting, tend to support this opinion ; but the far more careful regard for comfort and the greater num-

ber of living rooms adjoining one another, than are usually found in the old Egyptian monuments, seem again to betray the presence of a female influence, and I am therefore inclined to imagine that these buildings are to be ascribed to the latter times of those queens, who, as already remarked, ruled for centuries in Ethiopia, under the same ever-perpetuated name, and had various martial and peaceful intercourse with the Romans, so that architects of that nation might easily be employed to engraft the Egyptian style here, like the Greek in their own country. To acknowledge the truth of the hypothesis of certain travellers, which even with regard to the monuments of Meravi and Meroe, appears very uncritical, that the architectural remains of Ethiopia, are older than those of Egypt would be here a downright absurdity. The opinion that the flat land of Egypt, in part unflooded until a later period, was first peopled from the mountain plains of Ethiopia, is quite natural and consequently probable. But I fearlessly assert that the old monuments of Ethiopia yet existing, *as far as they are known to us*, by no means date their origin from that period, but are even mostly much more modern than the Egyptian antiquities from the

latter period of the Pharaohs, or in part even of the Ptolemies.

It is however interesting to reflect that at so great a distance from the present civilised world, probably not more than 1500 years ago, thousands of square miles, of fertile fields, full of towns, temples, and palaces were in existence, where now an unfruitful desert, devoid of water, with mere underwood and a few trees at immense distances, extended itself; and that at the same time a much more refined culture of the mind, with a far higher stage of art, (at least of architecture) than we ourselves occupy, flourished, where at this moment, but a few wild wandering hordes of plundering Bedouins inhabit.

The idea of finding myself in the former palace of the elegant and lively Queen Candace, whom I naturally fancied as an uncommonly beautiful and graceful brunette, gave double interest to the 170 labyrinths of chambers, staircases, passages, courts, colonnades, and walls, which in some measure balanced the fatigue and heat with which we were oppressed. I also gave myself up, I must confess, more to the *egotistical enjoyment* than the industry of a traveller, as neither our time was sufficient (for our

stock of water was scarcely calculated for three days) nor did my exhaustion permit me to busy myself with detailed measurements, and careful examinations of a kind to enable me to take a correct plan of the whole, which, I believe, has been already done by M. Linant with his accustomed exactitude. The reader will, therefore, be content with the following brief description.

It appears that there were several chief entrances to the different buildings, which, surrounded by a common wall, altogether forms the royal palace, but it is now difficult to discover where the *propylæ* of the same was situated. In my opinion, the chief entrance was at the narrow side of the oblong which faces the north-east. Here is to be seen, after passing through a not very extensive court, on both sides, long rows of chambers whose walls are six feet in thickness, and through which passed a noble colonnade; the columns are smooth, without hieroglyphics or carved work, and stand upon bases one foot in height, are five yards in circumference, with a height of fifteen or sixteen feet at the most, inclusive of a goblet-shaped capital adorned with leaf-work. Few of them are still standing, and all are more or

less shattered. Halls appeared to have existed at the two ends of the colonnade, and to have terminated in niches probably adorned with statues. From the hall on the east you enter a passage, doubtless formerly covered in, ten and a half feet in breadth, and 231 feet in length. The passage leads through several great courts, in one of which stood a single tall column of twelve and a half feet in circumference. It then leads past the foundation walls of different buildings, through an ornamental gate to the back colonnade of a temple standing somewhat higher than the rest, which is entirely built according to usual plan of a Greek *peripteros*, however without *opisthodomas* and *pronaos*. It forms but a single hall (the cella), which is supported in the interior by four columns and enclosed on all four sides by walls, which are surrounded by a double portico, ten columns on the long and six on the narrow side. Three sides of the columns are smooth, but the fourth on the eastern side, where a broad and high open terrace is situated, to which as may still be traced led a splendid stair-case, extending the whole breadth of the terrace. All the columns are adorned with the richest and the most tasteful carving, although their size very little exceeds

those above mentioned, and on the whole, as stated, the elegant rather than the imposing preponderates.

Each column is differently decorated, and we here met, for the first time in the whole ruins, some hieroglyphics and anaglyphics, well executed, but without colours; nevertheless only the bottom stones of the columns, which each consisted of four pieces, were decorated in this manner. On some were to be seen the usual procession of the Egyptian Deities, with their attributes; some also with the Nile key in their hands, to whom a *Queen* is sacrificing, which the more confirmed me, in my hypothesis that the fair sex had here been *de préférence* the rulers.

The figures on the four centre columns, close to the chief entrance, were full three-fourths in relief, and with very correct drawing, extremely gracefully treated, but much softer than the pure Egyptian style permits of. All those sculptures are unfortunately much dilapidated. In the interior of the temple, as already mentioned, there are only four columns, in each of the longer side walls are introduced two windows; on the south side, we remarked between these a niche, in which the Deity here worshipped, formerly probably stood. Opposite to the large orna-

mental entrance door of this temple, is a little door which leads to the back portico, to a staircase, only five feet in breadth, leading to numerous apartments, doubtless private dwelling places, whose principal wall on the south side, borders on a very large court lying considerably deeper, so that it may here be about 18 feet in height. In the centre of this court, traces of their foundations and solitary scattered fragments, hint at the former existence of two obelisks, with probably a colossus between them. Neither on the outside of the walls or the interior of the chambers, could I discover traces of other carvings, nor of the royal coat of arms, except two very similar little carved pictures of a grotesque kind.

I have unfortunately lost the commencement of an ancient oriental description on the back wall of the temple, which I laboriously copied; the rest of it had been erased, whilst many other walls were defaced by the rough attempts of drawing and writing of the Arabs, or perhaps of solitary Egyptian soldiers who may by chance have strayed hither. I afterwards discovered, with great pleasure, amongst these scrawls, two long perfectly modern inscriptions of M.M. Linant and Caillaud, the only Europeans, who till

to-day, the 25th of April, 1837, have advanced thus far. They run as follows :

(1) “ L’an de Jesus 1822, Frederic Caillaud a visité ces ruines renommées il est venu mandé par la France. Favorisé par le prince Ismaël Pascha il a pénétré au delà de Fazole par dix degrés de latitude ou il a visité des peuples payens.”

(2) “ L’an de Jesus 1822, Louis Linant a visité ces ruines. Il est venu mandé par l’Angleterre et il a pénétré jusqu’ au royaume du Senaar grace au conquêtes d’ Ismael Pascha general des armées de son pere Mehemed Ali vice-roi d’Egypte.”

I thought myself justified, as being the third European who had visited Messaourat, in taking the place of honour between these two gentlemen, and had only the following words engraved by my dragoman, not having such high commanders to mention ; for my country, far from entrusting me with commissions, even declined my offers for that purpose.

“ In the year 1837 of the Christian Æra, a German traveller visited these ruins, sent hither by his own inclination, and with the intention of penetrating as far as he felt disposed.”

In one of these numberless courts of the palace, there yet stands a particular little temple alone in the centre, perhaps a Typhonium, because on the door posts are twined ferocious looking snakes. Close by are the remains of two colossi of very mediocre carving, and like all the rest formed of sandstone; marble and granite are nowhere employed. This temple also consists of a *cella* with two fallen columns, opposite to the entrance stands a single altar.

No other ruins, beyond the inclosure of the walls already mentioned, have, as far as I know, been yet discovered; but if one imagines the beautiful valley in blooming cultivation, pleasure gardens around the palace, and forests on the neighbouring mountains, it must have been a highly desirable country residence, when the young Queen of the Ethiopians had any private reasons for preferring the pleasures of solitude, to the more noisy delights of her capitals, Napata and Meroe.

After mid-day, we continued our ride to the temples of El-Auvatep; we remained two hours longer on the mountain, when an immense plain opened to our eyes, again surrounded by solitary mountains in the distance, whilst a small ridge of the chain we had just left, gradually declined

upon our left hand. This plain was more sterile than the former, but in like manner enlivened here and there, by short fern, and groups of the thorny mimosa trees. After four hours hard riding, we reached the end of the mountain ridge above alluded to, where four temples are built one below another, as it were step by step, descending to the plain. This place, on M. Cadalvène's map, (copied as it seems from Caillaud, as he was not there himself,) is called Naga. The Arabs accompanying us, however, unacquainted with this name, called it El-Auvatep; about a thousand paces from the temples, we met with a lion standing on his hind legs, of redstone, but little covered with the sand, and with the exception of his head being knocked off, unmutilated; it is probable that many of his comrades are buried near him. Here commence heaps of ruined buildings on both sides of the way, so that it is to be presumed, a not inconsiderable town anciently stood here.

The first temple occupying the highest position, and standing eastward of the others, bears traces of having been formerly fresh covered with massive stone. Its interior walls are filled with carvings and hieroglyphics, on the stone itself, the subjects of which are very difficult to

distinguish. The God with the mask like a ram, (Ammon) occurs most frequently, to whom a King or General is sacrificing, and beside whom half a ring was still visible, which I copied, as I could find none like it named by Champollion and Wilkinson ; this was, however, lost with the description before mentioned, which is the more to be regretted, as these monuments were till now entirely unknown. Opposite to the entrance, stands as usual a perfectly simple altar, in the form of a die. These immense heaps of ruins hint at several considerable buildings in the neighbourhood, and similar heaps of stones stretch far into the plain like a street or avenue.

The second temple, about 200 paces from the first, towards the west, was of much larger extent, and of much greater magnificence ; six gates, besides several columns between them are still standing, all completely filled with neatly executed sculpturings, but everywhere without a symptom of colouring. Over each of the gates was to be seen the winged ball, with snakes twined around it, and a broad road from the west, with almost all its sphinxes still quite un mutilated. These are, in this case, evidently thick fleeced sheep and not rams, as is probably the case with the sphinxes in Meravi, and, as

similar are certainly nowhere else to be found in Egypt, form a remarkable peculiarity of this part of Ethiopia.

Five or six hundred paces farther in the same line, towards the west, is the third and smallest temple, which is probably more modern than the others, and in the degenerated Roman style, and overloaded to the extreme, betrays the total downfall of the art, although it is partly adorned with Egyptian decorations, but devoid of hieroglyphics and carving, more like one of the fantastic monstrosities in our old gardens, than a religious edifice dedicated to the Gods.

On the other hand, the fourth temple close by, appears the noblest of all, and to pertain to a much more ancient epoch, although it scarcely exceeds in size the half of the last described. Its entrance is from the east, like that of the first and third, for the second alone has it from the west. This entrance has the shape of Egyptian pillars, on whose narrow sides two gigantic snakes twine round the stem of a colossal flower, and end in a head of the God Osiris, who carries the key of the Nile in his hand. On the left and broadest side of the pillars, next the door, is to be seen the well-known representation of the giant, (repeated on almost every Egyptian

monument), generally representing a monarch in the form of the victorious Osiris, raising a sword with one hand, and grasping prisoners by the hair with the other ; but this collection of heads grasped by the giant, exceeds in quantity all Egyptian representations of the kind, that I have seen. This curious picture completely resembles in shape, one of our Genealogical Trees, and contains, in the first place, three gigantic heads, with long necks growing one out of another, from which, long mis-shapen arms are stretched out, horizontally, on both sides ; in the interstices of which are five and twenty more little heads. The giant holds the entire machinery, by the long hair of the topmost head with the left hand, and flourishes in his right, instead of a sword, a tremendous club.

On the right side of the gate is carved a gigantic Goddess of equal size with her *pendant* opposite, and in the same position, with the same prodigious collection of heads in her hand.

Both figures have an imposing effect, but betray altogether, rather the decline than the rough commencement of the art, and all the physiognomies of the heads are very deficient in that admirable characteristic expression which

distinguishes similar statues in Thebes and Ypsambul, so that you can almost guess with certainty their country from the features of their countenance. The interior of the temple was totally devoid of sculpture and hieroglyphics, and appeared never to have been completed, nothing but bare crumbling walls and heaps of stones here met the eye, but on all the external walls were carefully executed, and in part well preserved gigantic carvings; on the southern side in particular the sculpture is in the best condition, and exhibits to us the same procession of five Deities, one behind the other, as they are to be seen in the Typhonium at Dschebel-Barkal, and other places.

Here again the Queen and her companions are sacrificing to them; the other walls apparently represented several female figures in connection with the Gods, but they were too indistinct and defaced for me to convince myself on this head. This temple, like number two, has on the summit a crown in the old Egyptian style, of which however but a few fragments, and these for the first time with some symptoms of colour, are still remaining. Violent destruction by the hands of man is clearly visible on all these monuments, and

several crosses carved upon the walls, unfortunately leads one to suspect that Christian fanaticism, even penetrating to these regions, has assisted with pious zeal in the annihilation of the arts.

Deadly fatigued, the thermometer at 35° in the shade of the temple (111° Fahrenheit) and an oppressive head-ache with which I was constantly tormented, (to cure which, instead of healthy nutriment, dirty water from the stinking skins, with half mouldy biscuits was its only substitute) must serve to excuse the *meagreness* of this description, as well as the impossibility of my taking, alone as I was, sufficient drawings of the remarkable objects I have mentioned. I think I may venture to assert, that few, circumstanced as I was, would have been able to do as much.

Towards evening, after reposing for a short time, we were again in the saddle, in order to ride during the night seven German miles further, in search of the third place, where the only other ruins in this part of the country are to be found. As however, after a five hours march, the Doctor's and my valet's dromedaries could scarcely be induced to advance, the rough ground in the Egyptian darkness became more

and more difficult to get over, and we could all scarcely keep our saddles for fatigue, we determined to ride towards a great fire on the left, which the Sheik assured us belonged to a tribe of Bedouins with whom he was acquainted, and there to await the morning, or at all events, the rising of the moon. Notwithstanding the assurance he had just given us, Sheik Bischir employed every military precaution—we halted some hundred paces from the fire, which magically illuminated the mimosa wood around us, and two men were sent before us as scouts. When they returned to deliver their report, it was not considered advisable, on what grounds I know not, to claim their hospitality, and we again turned sideways towards a more distant fire that blazed above the horizon. This being reached in the course of half an hour, we pursued the same tactics, whereupon it was at length permitted us to encamp upon an isolated sand hill, round the foot of which our beasts of burden were arranged like a fortification. Of the Bedouins, to whom Sheik Bischir alone paid a visit, we saw nothing; but our careful Sheik himself brought us what was much more welcome, an enormous gourd full of excellent milk, with a packet of Arabian cakes, of which we made a

most delightful meal. Two hours of deep sleep, although upon beds not remarkable for their softness, so completely refreshed us that we all mounted our dromedaries with renewed courage, and with the best temper to ride in the enlivening freshness of the morning towards the rising sun. We might however have spared ourselves the whole fatigue of the day's long journey, as the ruins, on account of which we went so much out of our way, are quite unimportant—they lie close to the Nile, and consist only of great heaps of fragments, from which there yet rise three square pillars, surrounded by heads of Isis with very long ears. An Italian renegade, physician to the Government of Kartum, has here undertaken excavations which have produced no other result than a few broken columns and keystones to gateways, with the symbol of the winged ball upon them, of which the carving is tolerably uncouth.

There now remained, to complete our journey, but a two hours march to Beni-Naga, in whose neighbourhood my caravan, which had gone on before by the shortest road, awaited us by the river. Our road along the Nile, resembled, although uncultivated, a beautiful garden, from the number of elegant clumps of bushes, and

groups of trees, between which the most beautiful prospects opened on the one side upon the mountains we had just left, and on the other, upon the distant windings of the river. Game was here tolerably plentiful, especially hares, which the Bedouins kill by throwing stones at them. A troop of six large snow-like antelopes, flitted passed us; and near some tents we saw some very peculiar sheep, which not only differed in their form entirely from ours, but also in their colour. Some were red; the wool of others was of the colour of a pyebald horse, and several most beautifully striped like a zebra. We soon after beheld, not far from Beni-Naga, a thick wood of tall palm trees, whose like we had not seen for a long time, and discovered, at the same time, our light green tents, set up beneath their shade by the side of different *sakis*, amid the fertile meadows they watered. Here I determined to rest for the day. A sheep was killed for the Sheik and his people, and roasted whole. I contented myself with dates and milk, a diet which I continued until my arrival at Kartum, and thereby completely put an end to my frequent headaches, and other trifling ailings.

CHAPTER VI.

MARNAT—WEATHER PHENOMENA—ARRIVAL AT
THE CAPITAL OF THE SUDAN.

BENI-NAGA is, like Schendy, a very large, but almost ruinous place, which only two or three families still inhabit. Not far from the town stands the grave of a celebrated Mahometan saint, in the form of a tall, sharp pointed pyramid, which is still the usual style of building here for similar objects. However, the Mahomedan pyramids are never four-cornered, but always round. Stone is sometimes used in their erection, but they are chiefly built of bricks dried in the sun, or earth mixed with straw, rarely of burnt bricks. Immediately upon our arrival they told us of a melancholy event which

had occurred, two days previous, near our encampment. Two lions had stolen into the neighbourhood of one of the *saki*, where several head of cattle were standing, from which the largest of the brutes selected a cow as his prey. In the act of dragging her away, he was boldly attacked by the owner, whom the shrieks of the terrified animals had summoned. In despair at the loss of that, which perhaps constituted the greater part of his property, the poor black rushed upon the lion, and thrust a javelin deeply into his breast; unfortunately, however, the wound was not immediately mortal. The irritated monster immediately let go its prey, and reaching its enemy with a single bound, tore off his face with its claws, upon which it further dreadfully lacerated his right arm with its teeth. In the meantime, all the people belonging to the *saki* hastened to the spot, and easily dispatched, with their long spears, the already exhausted lion. The younger lion escaped.

With the apathy peculiar to this people, the dead animal was the very same night roasted, greedily devoured, and the skin sold on the following morning to a passing traveller.

The wounded man had survived a whole day

in the most horrible agony, and had just been buried as we arrived.

We had opportunities during our stay in this bivouac, to observe some of the peculiar phenomena of this climate, which are, it is true, remarkable, but by no means agreeable to witness. After constantly changing winds, and the most sultry heat, with a very cloudy sky, it suddenly appeared to us as if a dark sand mountain came travelling towards us from the south. I immediately commanded that my tent, in which I had shortly before retired to rest, should be closed as securely as possible, and fastened by some additional ropes still more strongly to the surrounding trees. It sustained itself bravely when the storm of wind and sand flew howling over us, but from the dust it carried with it there was no escape. In less than a minute, so much of this element had penetrated through the seams of the tent, that every thing in it, including myself, was covered inch deep with dirt of every description ; and had it not been for the silk handkerchief which I had wrapped round my face, I believe I should have been stifled with it. All the Arabs, wrapt up in a similar manner, had thrown themselves on their faces

upon the earth, where they remained motionless until the storm abated, which happened in about ten minutes.

In the evening, I proposed, after my dust bath, to take another in the river, by way of purification, but literally fell out of the frying pan into the fire. The only convenient bathing place was about a mile (English) distant from the tents ; and even as I was going along, I remarked that the sky, towards the north, had a curious reddish yellow colour, whilst distant lightning flashed from the surrounding darkness. I, therefore, lost not a moment in getting into the water, but had scarcely swam a few strokes, when drops of rain, as large as filberts, began slowly to fall ; the air grew dark as night ; and in the midst of this gloom, a cloud of a fiery red approached us with ominous howling. I now sprang as quickly out, as I had into the river, in order, at least, to get my clothes on before the breaking out of the menacing event ; but it was already too late, and I was merely wrapt in a bathing cloak, when, amid ceaseless rolling of thunder, and blinding flashes of lightning, a torrent burst upon us, the like of which I had never before experienced. I was now constrained to admire the presence of mind of

the three Negroes of Sheik Bischir I had taken with me. In a moment, they had wrapped me and my clothes in the large carpet, which lay spread upon the bank, and all three thrown themselves over me, like a protecting roof of flesh and blood on the side from which the storm came. We thus formed a too compact mass to be carried away by the streaming torrent ; and all the injury I suffered, consisted merely in remaining sometime in a stream of water, and afterward having to dress in a somewhat gentler shower of rain ; after which I hastened, as fast as I could, to regain the security of my tent. The storm lasted during the whole night with more or less violence, so that, by the morning, even my double-roofed tent could no longer prevent the entrance of the water.

It was lucky that this little adventure did not bring on a fever, but as the heat here with every change of the weather almost always remains the same, one is less subject to take cold than in more northern climates. We remained there, however, until one o'clock in the afternoon the next day, to give ourselves and our effects time to dry in the sun before we started. At first the country was constantly enlivened by bushes, though mostly leafless, and we met many travel-

lers on camels, on horses, on asses, and on foot, all armed with spears and shields; chiefly tall good looking people from the Sudan, who especially excelled all the Arabs we had seen as yet, in the form of their legs and calves—who, with all their strength, are mostly afflicted with spindle-shanks. They returned our greeting with much friendliness, and had altogether a free, good tempered, and on the whole, more obliging, although less dignified, and noble aspect, than the Schaki, and Dschahelin Arabs.

In a few hours all vegetation disappeared, and the smooth barren plain exhibited nothing but an isolated, extensive, and low ridge of granite mountains, which resembled the ruins of a town, and by an optical delusion peculiar to the desert, was surrounded by a sea of a most striking apparent reality. The soil is here everywhere much impregnated with salt. The path hence continued, for a long time, very monotonous, till, in the evening, we reached the last (the sixth) cataract of the Nile, where a fresh scene of vegetation again begins, and granite rocks of all shapes, as at Assuan, though of a much more agreeable character, stretch across the country for several miles from the Nile. The highest of these rocks, close to the

road, marks, according to the division of the Arabs, the boundary between Nubia and the Sudan, a fine romantic spot, bounded, towards the river, by a thick forest; whilst before it, in the south, a blue ridge of mountains arises, which, turning to the east, ends in another extraordinary group of mountains. These resemble a dozen gigantic hay-cocks, or Santon tombs, if you like it better, all of the same height and form, and rising separately from the plain,—no connexion between them, at least from here, being distinguishable. I called to mind, at this place, the enthusiasm with which I had first ridden into Nubia from Assuan, and how little I then thought of again riding out of it at the other side. Dr. Koch, to whom I made this remark, replied, “Yes, and how many leave Nubia without ever finding their way back again.”*

“That,” said I, “we must leave to destiny, and I hope, for the sake of those who love us, that Heaven will arrange it better for us. As far as I am concerned, it is tolerably indifferent to

* These words have since proved a melancholy prophecy, for on his second journey to Sennar, the poor Doctor died during this year (1844) in Kartum.

my wandering soul in what part of the universe it leaves its present habitation, for far more distant and interesting travels in some new form and state. I am always prepared for this catastrophe, though by no means desirous of hastening it, least of all by useless anxiety. So comfortable is this state of mind, that I even wish it to all my pious enemies, according to the most difficult doctrine of our religion, which commands us 'to bless those who curse us!' but besides," added I, "a physician and a practical philosopher travelling together, have certainly less to fear than others. *You* can cure the diseases of our bodies, if we fall sick; and I shall not fail, if spleen or home sickness overtake us, or the heat becomes too unbearable, to sustain our souls by the most excellent maxims: it is only necessary that we should rely on one another,—I on your healing powers, and you on my philosophy; and as this is to our mutual interest, we must, for once, restrain our scepticism." With this the Doctor was content, so we continued our way with redoubled confidence, the blind leading the lame.

We next turned westward, in the direction of the wood and river, and as we could no longer penetrate the lofty and luxuriant thorn bushes,

we rode along a dry canal, only filled by the overflowing of the Nile, in meandering turnings to a little village called Marnat, where our caravan had halted. The fertility and the inimitable charms of this tropical region, a truly ideal wilderness, infinitely delighted us, especially as the proximity of the water had already covered the countless species of trees, bushes, and plants with the freshest verdure, and the most abundant blossoms. A hundred kinds of mimosas and acacias, Sabine trees, a variety of elms and poplars, with many others unknown to me by name, and all covered with a thick web of parasites, surrounded the neat straw huts of the village, making them look like summer-houses. In the midst of this paradise, we found our tents pitched close to a broad arm of the Nile, of which we had an extensive prospect on both sides. The river was full of bushy islets and odd-shaped granite rocks. Opposite lay a large, thickly wooded island, upon which stood another considerable village, with which, at both banks, a ferry-boat constantly maintained a most lively traffic. The said boat consisted of a single hollow tree, and when filled with ten or twelve individuals, rose scarcely half an inch above the water. It was rowed by two paddles of two feet

in length, shaped like table-spoons. Eight ladies once came over together, on whose disembarkation as much fuss and delay took place as if they had been European exclusives. The sex is always the same, whether it wears, as here, rings through the nose and on the ankles, or, as with us, in the ears and on the fingers. We were received with great kindness by these children of nature, richly supplied with excellent milk, and a fat young goat readily slaughtered for us. This was, in every respect, so agreeable a locality, that had I been less pressed by time and curiosity, I could gladly have remained here for months together. Everything reminded me of our northern spring. We were not even annoyed by too great a heat, owing to a clouded sky and the evaporation of the water; whilst a number of beautiful birds sang and twittered around us, in the most exuberant and delightful manner. Only the black men, and a little crocodile (which had taken its post upon a solitary rock rising out of the river before us, and there, as if tamed, lay for hours, with open mouth, inhaling the fresh air) reminded us that we were in Africa. Guinea fowls, almost as large as peacocks, live here wild in considerable quantities: we shot some of them, whose flavour was

considered excellent, although I could not judge of this myself, as I still remained true to my milk diet.

We remained here the next day, and took some highly agreeable walks in the neighbourhood, which, on account of the everywhere surrounding thickets, and the want of all paths adapted for people in clothes, (for the skin of the blacks seems much less susceptible to thorns than our dresses) were not altogether without their difficulties.

On the 29th of April, at one o'clock in the afternoon, we continued our journey, quitting Marnat and its beauties of every kind with heavy hearts—the delightful remembrance of which will never vanish from my mind. The way led along the side of the mountain ridge we had seen the day before, and in one part directly across it, seven hours' hard riding, with the most sultry temperature. We met nothing remarkable during this journey, but an uncommonly pretty churchyard in the neighbourhood of a considerable village, of which each grave was surrounded by carefully baked glazed tiles of a reddish-brown colour, and the inner place laid out with coloured pebbles of various designs. M. Cadalvène alludes somewhere to similar

graves, and asserts that the pebbles are merely laid with the intent that the dead man, when he visits the grave, may always find the materials at hand to embed a wreath upon his tomb. Nobody here knew anything of this allegory, and when I asked, they always told me that no other object but ornament was connected with this practice, already in vogue at Quadi-Halsa, but which I never saw so artistically executed as in this village. Our encampment was again beneath tall acacias, on the Nile, not far from an isolated, pointed mountain, with the traces of a crater fallen in, evidently a burnt-out volcano. I found at this place a messenger, splendidly dressed in blue and white, of Korschud Pasha, the Governor of Sudan, to whom I had announced my arrival, in writing, a week ago, and who, anxious at my long delay, had sent this servant, on a swift-footed dromedary, to inquire what had become of me. As soon as he had received my answer, he took a hasty leave, and set off at so rapid a trot, that I no longer doubted his former assertion that he would reach Kartum before midnight, a distance of above forty miles. We travelled with our now far inferior beasts, unfortunately much more slowly. The twilight was already approaching, when I took another

solitary walk by the side of the river, to render my limbs, which had become stiff from the long ride, somewhat more supple. At a sudden turning, I came upon a little plot of grass, entirely surrounded by walks, which, as it were, half pertain to the river and half to the land, and beheld with joyful astonishment an enormous river-horse, industriously grazing, and not in the least disturbed by the proximity of the blazing fire and noise of our bivouac. I immediately called to the Doctor and my people, and for about half an hour we regarded the animal at our leisure, at scarcely a hundred feet distance. The Germans term this beast "Nile horse," the Arabs more correctly call it "water ox," although it might just as well be called "water pig," for, properly speaking, it holds a middle position between these animals, and rather imitates the last than the first, in its habits; but the misshapen head, out of all proportion with the rest of the body, as well as the immense saucer eyes, the size of cannon balls, are peculiar to itself. It is a harmless brute, injurious only to the farmer, from its insatiable appetite; and only dangerous when it is incited to battle. Probably the specimen before us, as the grazing seemed very abundant,

would have remained the whole night near us, if a ship in full sail had not appeared upon the river. As this approached, it became apparently very much annoyed at being disturbed, (for it shook its head several times, and repeatedly opened its jaws, with their enormous teeth,) went slowly and gravely into the water, raised once or twice its head to look around, and as the ship was almost in the act of sailing over it, betook itself to bed in the deep. It may have slept there better and warmer than we did, for scarcely were we in bed, than we experienced a second edition of the sand-storm, which, though gradually diminishing in violence, lasted five hours; so that during this time, cleaning the tents was not to be thought of, and the united strength of all our black and white people was constantly in request, to keep them from falling. The Doctor's supper was carried away by the wind, the fire was blown out, and even all closed boxes and chests were filled with dirt; so that when it at length ceased, after a sleepless night, we passed the whole morning in cleaning and getting our things in order; added to this, it became so cold (a most unusual case here), that, though wrapped in a couple of cloaks, I could scarcely keep myself warm. All this delayed

our departure, till about two o'clock in the afternoon.

A SHORT EPISODE.

I must here pause, to express my delight (three years later), that the interview I have just described with the hippopotamus was, long before my revelation of this circumstance, known by cabalistic magic to our reverend Prussian Regierungsrath Herr Carl Immermann, and described in the annals of his Munchausen, with such clever variations, as I myself could never have succeeded in inventing. I must only protest against the river-horse swallowing me, and then spitting me out again; such an honour would have given me too great a resemblance to the prophet Jonas, which I am too modest to desire. It is also probable that in such case, I should not have exclaimed *Monsieur, monsieur, avec permission je suis son altesse telle et telle*. The phrase is too bad French, and besides, not characteristic. I should, on the contrary, have called out to the hippopotamus, possessed by the spirit of Immermann, in order to immediately convince him of my indigestibility: *Mon cher animal, cheval,*

bœuf, ou cochon qui que vous soyez laissez mon tranquille ! Votre nature est de manger du foin : ne sutor, ultra crepidam ! Translated :—

“Bite not more than you can eat, Hippopotamus.”

And if the monster had considered this speech as too extensive for one sticking in his throat, I should have excused myself, for once, by the example of humorous German authors, who, even before Immermann, have ever claimed a privilege of delivering their gold dust uncleansed from the original sand in which it is found.

The saline impregnation of the desert through which we passed to-day, became more and more abundant. The natives have nothing to do but to make little trenches in the ground—thousands of which we beheld to the right and left of the path—and then to boil the earth, as dug up with water, to obtain a very considerable quantity of salt, about a sixth part the weight of the earth employed. The road was to-day more lively than yesterday ; and we even met a man, of apparent rank, with a considerable suite, who, in his showy dress, with the pointed paper hat upon his head, exactly resembled a Chinese

Mandarin. After we had got over about four German miles, at about seven o'clock I stopped near a herd of goats, under some mimosa bushes, to repose a little, and take a double portion of my milky diet. We then rode on by starlight, in order, if possible, to reach Kartum, early in the morning. The road now chiefly passed through uneven ground, and tangled bushes, so that at the very commencement of the night, which was tolerably dark, we had difficulty in keeping together, and were often torn by unperceived thorn twigs. At last, the Doctor and my valet lost their way, as on account of the greater fatigue of their beasts, they had not been able to follow us with sufficient rapidity. I sent the dragoman after them, but in vain; and when we had waited a considerable time, and shouted in every direction, without obtaining an answer, we were obliged to leave them to take care of themselves, which could be done without great danger, as we were but half an hour's ride from Halfaya, a considerable place, and the morning was fast approaching. As we afterwards learnt, the lost ones, after enduring much anxiety in the forest, had at length, luckily, found their way thither; and having aroused the Sheik, and demanded of him asses,

and a guide, arrived three hours after us at Kartum. This town lies at the commencement of the triangle, formed by the White and Blue Rivers, the two great arms of the Nile, with regard to which, it is still undecided which of the two is properly entitled to bear that name.*

The town looks very well in the distance, with the lofty tower of its mosque, and the fortification walls around it; but to a close inspection, as all the buildings are formed of rough earth, is as insignificant in appearance as all other cities of this region. The surrounding country is on this side chiefly desert, or fields destitute of trees; only in the immediate neighbourhood are a few gardens; more is scarcely to be expected, as this capital of the Sudan only rose from the desert, ten years ago, at the command of Mehemet Ali. Before I crossed the Blue River, which flows in front of the town, I found, on the near bank of the same, the treasurer of Korschud Pasha, already posted to compliment me in the name of his master, and to take me across to the house prepared for me, in his most elegant boat. This turned out, as usual, a pattern of the characteristic taste of the Turks, and

* This now appears to be decided.

other Eastern nations. I mean that mixture of splendour, dirt, and misery, so peculiar to them ; but here, according to the custom of the country, increased to a three-fold degree. The exterior walls were of rough clay, with a high and ornamental door, leading through a verandah to a saloon of respectable dimensions, the roof of which consisted of rough beams of wood, and the floor of firmly pressed earth, which a slave watered every two hours, from large bags of ox-hide, in order to lay the dust. The divan, also surrounding three sides of the saloon, was nothing but earth covered with wood, though bedecked with the most beautiful carpets of soft silken cushions, of every colour, in great profusion. The floor was covered to within a certain distance from the divan, with mats ingeniously woven with palm leaves, which are no where better manufactured than in the Sudan. The walls, it is true, had been a short time ago white-washed, but had already reassumed the usual dusty hue ; and all the furniture of the saloon consisted of two enormous jars of baked clay, through which the constantly renewed Nile water filtered into large basins, where it remained as clear as crystal, and as cool as in a well. Several bardaks (as will be remembered, earthen

jars which render the water cooler by evaporation) stood on the shelf, affixed to the wall close by, to be used at pleasure. A dozen richly dressed, though barefooted, servants, moreover, filled the room, and rivalled one another in presenting me with the most splendid pipes, as well as coffee and sherbet in the costliest vessels. The bedrooms adjoining this room were disgusting to every sense, worse than the poorest rustic in Europe would have inhabited; I therefore determined, for my part, to occupy the divan both day and night, and sincerely pitied my servants and slaves who were compelled to take up their abode in these dirty, dismal holes. For the Doctor alone, they had prepared a smaller, separate house, which in every thing precisely resembled, in miniature, my own, and by no means yielded the palm in dirt, and misery, and superficial splendour.

CHAPTER VII.

KARTUM.

SCARCELY five minutes had elapsed since my instalment in the house, when General Mustapha Bey, the military governor of the town, and Mehemet Ali's commander of the regular troops of Sudan, entered with a numerous suite; and after having twice affectionately embraced me, seated himself by my side, on the carpet-covered earthen ottoman. He is said to be one of the best officers of the Viceroy, and had a martial decided look which well became him. Nevertheless, he occupied a subordinate office, as he had formerly been Governor of the Kingdom of Kordosan, when, it was asserted, he

maintained his position somewhat *too well*, and thereby accumulated a large fortune. A quarter of an hour afterwards, Korschud Pasha himself came with still greater pomp than the General, and honoured me with the same double embrace. Like almost all Egyptian grandees, the Pasha is also a man of noble manners, and prepossessing politeness, but suffering from the climate, had then a very pallid and sickly aspect. As I afterwards learnt, he is here rather feared than loved, on account of his unpitiful avarice, by which he is reported to have scraped together, in the ten or twelve years of his government, above a million Spanish piastres. He was held in greater awe than even Mehemet Ali himself, in Kahira; and his Italian physician, the already mentioned renegade, who bears the rank of Colonel, never ventured, when the Pasha permitted him to seat himself, to sit any where but on the mat on the floor; only the General sat on the sofa beside the Pasha and myself. All the rest were compelled to stand, with their shoes in their hands around us; the most distinguished on the top of the divan, those next in degree upon the mats, and those of least account at some distance upon the wet earthen floor.

Our conversation was but short ; and after the gentlemen had left me, the Major-domo appeared with a long row of servants, all provided with the different ingredients of a Turkish dinner, which was infernally bad, although not wanting in variety. At the same time, a Sicilian Jew appeared, who provided me with a miserable sort of sour Rhenish wine, for which I was made to pay about eighty piastres a bottle. This man, who traded in every species of European refuse, but always according to the same tariff, was at the same time the Government apothecary ; and the lot of the poor soldiers was not a little to be pitied who were compelled to take his diabolical drugs in the hospital. As he doubtless regarded me as a particular extra booty, he became so intrusive, that I was compelled, at length, to have him kicked out of doors. It is unfortunate, but too true, that all the Europeans one meets with, established in these countries, generally belong to the same class.

Towards evening I returned the Pasha's visit, and was, it is true, received by him with all the barbarian splendour for which the occasion afforded an opportunity, but by no means in a better, though much larger, abode than that which had been assigned to me. On this occa-

sion, as during his several subsequent visits, the Pasha gave me much, not unimportant, information as to the unknown regions in the south; especially interesting was his account of an excursion which he himself had made some years before with two thousand armed men, two and thirty days journey (of twenty or five and twenty miles) up the Bahr-el-Abiad (White Nile), partly upon the river, partly upon the land along its banks. He found the regions through which he passed almost without exception fertile in soil, full of forest, with the tallest trees (*Adansonia*s and cocoa palms, according to his own description), and only occasionally surrounded by steep and lofty mountains: but everywhere very little cultivation; and the further he advanced, the wilder and more warlike became the inhabitants, from whom food itself was only to be obtained by force of arms. He described these inhabitants as tall, very powerful, and well-grown coal-black Negroes, who went quite naked, even without aprons; and had no religion at all, that is, were probably neither Mahomedans, Jews, nor Christians. Men and women of some of their tribes, shave off their hair, and yet do not cover their heads from the burning sun. Few had beards. In winter it is very

cold in the mountainous parts of the country, when the natives light great fires and bury themselves in the heated sand. "Often," said the Pasha, laughing, "when we surprised them un-awares, we saw them working their way out of the ground like moles." Their arms consist of shields, bows, javelins, and arrows, the latter sometimes pointed with so powerful a poison, that wounds inflicted by them invariably prove mortal. None of them allow their arms to be taken from them—but with death; and the Pasha could not sufficiently applaud the heroic bravery and contempt of death with which they defended their country.

The water of the river, as far as they went, was everywhere plentiful, mostly very deep and without visible diminution, although the stream frequently divided itself into several arms, which surrounded many thickly wooded islands, twice, however, it happened that following a similar arm, they found it had so much overflowed the plain as to render sailing upon it too uncertain and dangerous, and were, therefore, obliged to return and seek another stream with safer boundaries. One of these arms, or auxiliary streams of the White Nile (for many of the arms alluded to are probably the latter,) had much better cultivated banks than the rest, and

a number of villages were scattered over the fertile meadows, but their inhabitants quite as wild as the rest ; on which account, as the Pasha coolly remarked, "*he felt himself compelled*"—(in good Turkish) to burn the greater part of these places, and to make slaves of the inhabitants. The Governor asserted that a little before the place where he commenced his return, called Taiphasan, in the land of the Tengar or 'Tongar, he saw two pyramids built quite like those of Dschiseh, though not so high and much less broad in the base, with flat summits, as if intended for statues ; both, he assured me, leaned from their foundations considerably towards the south, so that they appeared to the eye quite uneven, though he could not say whether they had been purposely built so, or received this inclination from an earthquake. The blocks of which they consisted, were of the same sort of stone as the surrounding mountains, laid step-wise over one another, so that one can climb up tolerably conveniently.

Although one ought not to depend much upon information obtained in this manner, yet it is scarcely probable that the dignified Turk, in the positions we mutually occupied, and in the presence of so many people—of whom several had

accompanied him on his expedition, and in part confirmed,—in part corrected his accounts,—would have told me before his assembled court, a mere fable; still less could he and his companions have been much mistaken in what they saw. Supposing his account to be true, this fact, more closely examined, leads to the most important results as to the history and antiquity of these countries. Perhaps Sesostris in his conquering expeditions penetrated thither, and there erected, as an eternal memorial of the wonderful undertaking, those stupendous monuments on both sides of the mysterious stream, whose source seemed unattainable;—or did there really live there, in the grey old time, a people whose rough, but already colossal art, found subsequently ennobled imitations in Egypt? These buildings, if they really exist, would at once set the question at rest. Of the half fabulous mountains of the Moon, Korschud Pasha, although, according to his description, he must have advanced beyond the eighth degree of latitude, could give no information. He heard and saw nothing to confirm the fact of their existence in the direction there marked in the maps. In all probability, this ridge of mountains, if it exists, lies more to the south and westward, far

beyond Abyssinia, in connection with its already very lofty mountain-chains.

This latter was the opinion of Korschud Pasha and even Mehemet Ali expressed to me a similar opinion in Kahira, as we were speaking of Bruce: viz. that the true sources of the Nile were certainly to be found in lofty mountains beyond Abyssinia. Although the sources of the Nile have now been sought for, for four thousand years in vain, I am still, after all the news I have collected, and after somewhat intimate acquaintance with those countries, persuaded that at this time, no such insurmountable hindrances are opposed, as is generally believed, if the proper means were only employed; and I cannot sufficiently express my surprise, that as yet neither a European Government, nor one of those many over-rich Englishmen, who take in general so much interest in similar objects, and who travel so much themselves,—people to whom it would cost but a slight deprivation to employ two or three hundred thousand dollars for such an object, have never thought of the idea of gaining themselves so easily an immortal name. If such a man or a government declare themselves to the Viceroy willing to bear the expense of the expedition, and sufficiently

proved that their objects were purely scientific, with a little *savoir faire*, the firmest support of the Egyptian Government might easily be obtained, without which, certainly, it would be difficult to carry out the undertaking.*

* We now know with certainty the course if not the sources of the Bahr-el-Abiad close to its rise, as well as the real position of the mountains (the mountains of the Moon, if you like to call them so,) from which the White Nile springs; but they were found much more to the south-west than was formerly presumed, that is, much as the Pasha of Kartum and Mehemet Ali himself already suggested, which is sufficiently remarkable. But to whom are we indebted that this secret of four thousand years is at length unveiled—entirely to the “useless” Mehemet Ali, the “barbarian” who “only thinks of enriching himself,” who, in three years, undertook three expeditions, one after another;—spared no expense, and rested not until he had attained his object. Will this stop the railings of the brainless scribblers against this Prince? Ascribe to him what motives they may, the result is no longer to be disputed. *His* energy overcomes what has yet remained impracticable to all nations of the earth, and the unlearned Turk deserves from science an immortal crown! It is indeed as if Fate wished to indemnify him by this unexpected glory, of the civilized world of Europe, for all the injuries which other powers in that quarter had done him in political, or rather *impolitical* respects.

I also received from an old Dschaus of the Governor's some more accurate information regarding Manderá; it lies about sixteen hours journey from Abu-Harass, eastward from the Nile; he also asserted, that there were ruins upon a mountain on the plain, but could not describe them minutely, having, as he said, paid too little attention to them. I immediately begged this Dschaus as a companion for the rest of my journey, and then took my leave to pay Mustapha Bey a visit; the latter inhabits the only house in Kartum, that besides the Harem of the Governor's has glass windows. He told us much of Kordosan, and the gold mines of Scheibun (not Schabun as it is called in the maps) where the Austrian mineralogists, under the guidance of the skilful Russegger are now staying with an escort of four hundred infantry, and two hundred cavalry for the examination of the gold mines there, but on account of the already commencing rainy season, are shortly expected to return hither. This large escort has been considered necessary for the protection of the men of science, because the valiant and martial Negroes are somewhat jealous of their gold, and themselves wash the sand with great industry, although imperfectly, and carry on a considerable trade with this metal to

Kordosan, Sennar, and also to Darfur. Mustapha Bey had recently waged war with them, and burnt down Scheibun, and also conquered some mountainous districts, but had been unable it seemed to maintain there a permanent position; to obtain slaves was the principal object of the expedition. Amongst the wonders of Kordosan, he reckoned a gigantic tree of a spongy wood, which bears fruit of the size of an ostrich's egg, the milk-like kernel of which is not unpleasant; the same tree occurs, though rarely, in some districts of Sennar, where it is called Kangulos: in Kordosan it is called Homer, as also Tebeld. Mustapha Bey assured me that he had measured trunks of these trees of above seventy feet in circumference; the wood is however so bad that it cannot even be used for burning—I also inquired of him, true to my old mania, about the Unicorn, but without result; although he made me a present of two splendid specimens of rhinoceros horns, the one measured exactly a foot and a half in length, the other, which is still thicker at the root, is half a foot shorter.

Of the volcanoes and hot wells, and grottos, with Egyptian hieroglyphics, mentioned by Herr Rüppel he had no knowledge; on the other

hand, he told me much of the remarkably rich and not quite uncivilized mountain tract *Tegele*, to the south-east of Kordosan ; although lying midway between Kordosan and Sennar, it is so excellently fortified by nature, so well organized in military respects, and inhabited by such brave people, that they have never yet been able to attack it with success. Only two almost impervious passes afford an entrance to the land, which is surrounded by nearly insurmountable rocks of porphyry and granite, and besides entirely begirt by a virgin forest of thorny mimosas, which extend from about the $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to the 11° of northern latitude. The Government is perfectly despotic. The present Sultan is said to be a young man of distinguished talent, and to have 50,000 armed men at his disposal. The land itself contains gold, but the gold washing, in the neighbouring Scheibun, is chiefly carried on by Negroes in the service of the ruler of Tegele ; the nation trades a little with the foreign Dschellahs, and is not without a certain luxury, which especially shows itself at the Court of the Sultan, by the splendour of their dresses. All the land belongs to the ruler of the state, and every inhabitant is no less his property; nevertheless, it is asserted

that the kingdom is governed with mildness and justice. At the death of the Sultan, men and women, according to a strange custom, are compelled to shave off their hair, cover their heads with dust and ashes, and mourn for the deceased a whole year; at the same time, all male cattle are killed, and it is not until after the expiration of the mourning, that they make predatory excursions in the neighbourhood to obtain fresh cattle for preserving the race. This last custom seems almost incredible; but Mustapha Pasha repeatedly assured me that the fact was precisely as he had stated; and in truth the follies of man have been at all times so stupendous, that there is no need to doubt the most extravagant. There may be a political object—to preserve the warlike, predatory spirit of the people, and to give them, at the commencement of the new Government, an external occupation.

The General was of opinion, that an European, representing himself as a simple merchant, would find little difficulty in introducing himself into Tegele, as no religious fanaticism exists there; and he was not even certain, whether all the inhabitants conformed to Islamism.

More to the south on the Dschebel-Kadro,

dwell the Nuba negroes, of handsome, muscular build, and well-formed countenance. Both sexes go perfectly naked. They are jet black, frequently tatooed on arms, breast, and belly, and marked by regular scratches of knives, representing sun, moon, and stars, like the inhabitants of Darfur, and a part of Lower Nubia. They use poisoned lances, with iron and wooden points; sometimes paint parts of their bodies with a red colour, and wear sandals of elephant hide, from which their shields are also manufactured. They make very ingeniously and artistically, sundry articles of leather and reeds; they are brave, martial, and of a savage character. Mustapha Pasha, who had many severe battles with them, never, he said, found a coward amongst them, and was seldom able to make prisoners of any but the seriously wounded, as they always fought to the last man, even against the most superior force. On several mountains, for instance upon Dschebel Njucker and Turban, they are said to eat human flesh: at all events, they are by no means fastidious in their food—fresh and tainted meat, rats, snakes, toads, and vermin of every description were never despised by them. Besides the rings in their noses and ears, worn

by both sexes, they also attach long porcupine quills, projecting right and left from their noses. But what appears quite peculiar to them, is that, of all parts of the body, they chiefly endeavour to adorn their genitals; and it is scarcely conceivable how they can bear without pain, the mass of ornaments there suspended. Their language resembles the Schilluk, rich and full, with many guttural sounds. Circumcision is unknown to them, as well as every description of religious ceremony. Nevertheless, they are far more intelligent than the Schilluk negroes.

In three days one may travel from Dschebel Hedra, to their country, as I afterwards learnt, from Russegger. In the west, you come to the mountain ranges of Abile, Manichedan, Kulfan, and Debri—in the east, Gualih, Deri, Njucker and Turban. The Hedra stands alone, and is formed of granite. The soil is clayey, and becomes in the rainy season an almost impassable swamp. Forests of acacias, mimosas, gum, and frankincense trees, cactuses and poisonous euphorbias, whose poison renders the arrows of the natives so deadly, abound there. Civet cats, the brown tetel, and other very large antelopes, like little horses with brown heads and backs, and the rest of their bodies

snow white, are frequently seen by travellers. Very large snakes, too, are to be found here, and amongst others the Boa Anaconda. From Hedra it is only a day's journey to Scheibun, which, as already mentioned, Mustapha Pasha entirely destroyed in the late war with the natives, and whose position on an isolated mountain seems highly advantageous in a military point of view. After passing Scheibun, the whole character of the country changes, and one fancies oneself in India. Two hours' ride from Scheibun, is a magnificent forest, where gigantic delebb and cocoa palms, with still more gigantic tamarinds and boababb trees, rival one another in splendour. The Adansonias glitter with white blossoms; from others hang nuts of as much as twenty pounds in weight; enormous fig trees, oleanders, and cactuses, mimosas, and acacias of all kinds; parasitical plants, such as fuchsias, pancratiums, with various kinds of iris, adorn this forest, inhabited by countless elephants, of which several troops came nearer to the caravans than was agreeable to the travellers. The mountain of Scheibun consists of gneiss and granite, like the Alps in Switzerland; the first primitive rock which, in the opinion of Herr Russegger,

he found in Africa ; for the beautiful granite of Assuan, &c. is, according to his ideas, of volcanic origin.

To the east of Schiebun, are the mountains of Abul, Schawari, Kavarmi; in the west, El-Buram, Moari, Tungar; in the south, Dschebel-Tira, and the plains of Fartit. Near the Dschebel-Tira, which is a day's journey from Scheibun, you pass again a still larger forest. All the mountains mentioned are abundantly populated ; they swarm, like ant-hills, with Negroes, and there are some inhabited by more than five thousand people. Dschebel-Tira, which Herr Russegger could only cursorily examine, consists of layers of primitive rocks of gneiss and quartz. These separate and low mountain ridges are probably the continuation of a line of primitive rocks traversing Africa from the north-east to the south-west, as the miners express themselves, and apparently the true gold repository of this part of the globe. Between Dschebel-Tira and the Tungar, is a plain of alluvial dust and sand abounding in gold. It is presumed that the gold-washing of the Nuba, unskilfully as it is carried on, nevertheless produces on an average from two to three francs a day each man; and wherever they

took up sand, the Austrian naturalists assured us that they found it more or less impregnated with the noble metal.

I devoted the next day chiefly to repose, and moderate good living, after my long abstinence; the pleasure of bathing in the river I was compelled to deny myself, as on account of the number and rapacity of the crocodiles, nobody ventures to do so upon this part of the bank. As the cool of the evening came on, I therefore contented myself with an air bath, and dressed as lightly as possible, took a ride through the town and suburbs.

I first visited the barracks, which I found, by the side of the hospital, in a most miserable state, the all-pervading uncleanness was especially disgusting. The rooms of the soldiers, and even of the subaltern officers were nothing but dirty, dark, stinking dens, and the arms with the utensils of the whole company were kept together pell-mell, and covered with dirt, in the more distant chambers. Similar holes formed the hospital, in which the bad smell reached such a pitch that I could give no more than a hasty glance at the interior. They excused themselves by saying that the new barracks were in the act of being built, and that until then, they

were compelled to make shift as well as they could. The entire separation of the weapons from the people was explained by the fact that they could not trust the Negro soldiers, and that they might easily desert with all their arms and accoutrements, if they could at any moment lay their hands upon them. These Negroes, chiefly the fruit of the pitiless Negro hunts, held here annually and continued for three months, are certainly miserable soldiers, and according to European discipline, very imperfectly exercised. They say they are obliged to be renewed every three years, because in the meantime, a great part of them desert or die of care, misery, and especially home-sickness, which often becomes quite an epidemic in their ranks.

I found the bazaar but needily furnished, excepting with slaves, but the building in part not bad, and on the whole the town would look very passable if the dirt-coloured bricks of which the houses consist, were only whitewashed. The streets are somewhat broader than is usual in this country, and more regularity is observed in their disposition and architecture. A new, half-finished mosque of well-burnt clinkers, provided with a lofty tower, even promises to become a

handsome and majestic building. I was surprised to find the Abyssinian slaves in the bazaar almost as dear as at Kahira, but a much larger collection of pretty girls on hand. This merchandise was so attractive, that my valet, Ackermann, the dragoman, and the cook, came all together to beg my permission to provide themselves with these wares, now become indispensable after so long a journey; and as they gave me not indistinctly to understand that in case of refusal they would provide themselves with another master, and I had more occasion for them than they for me, I was compelled to yield, although with great reluctance, because it established on the journey home a complete harem in my suite, and I subsequently had opportunity to observe how much on that account my servants, day after day, more and more neglected their duties. It has, however, often astonished me that people, who' in Europe rail at the bare mention of slavery, even many Englishmen, find it here so convenient to possess slaves: bad example by degrees misleads every one, it appears. I, who am not very fond of theories, content myself in treating my slaves humanely and kindly, and am convinced by experience that they, at least, feel themselves

more contented than our free servants in Europe, who have already almost become our masters.

At the end of our tour through the town which, in spite of the heat, we had finished chiefly on foot, we rested in a considerable wine garden, where they gave us excellent blue and white grapes, which were already—towards the end of April—over-ripe. It is only since its conquest by Mehemet Ali that the cultivation of the vine has been introduced into the Sudan, where it was formerly quite unknown.

On the 1st of May, and as early as sunrise, I had a long conversation with the Pasha, which this time chiefly treated of lions and crocodiles; the dreadful voracity of which latter appears to form here as inexhaustible a theme as the weather with us; and the Pasha told me to-day that he had been present a short time ago at the capture of one of these monsters, in whose belly were the yet shodden hoofs of a horse, and the red girdle of a fisherman. When the crocodile has seized upon any animal, he generally swims with it to the middle of the river, and holds it up several times in the air to convince himself it is dead; if it still struggles, he again dives with it, and only when he is con-

vinced of its death betakes himself to the sand to devour his prey at leisure. During this conversation we ourselves saw from the windows of the saloon above a dozen crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks of the river in the middle of the town. They were of all sizes, and of almost as many colours, sometimes black, sometimes grey, sometimes yellow, or of all these colours mixed in horrible confusion. One of this worthy company especially distinguished himself by his gigantic size, a well-known individual in Kartum, and under the name of the Sheik, as much feared as honoured by the natives; for, as in the time of the old Egyptians, some of these animals are still treated with a sort of superstitious reverence. To hunt the Sheik would be here considered as a species of crime, although he by no means shews himself grateful for this honour, and has already swallowed several notable victims.

The lions of the Sennar also attain to an enormous size, and I saw the skin of one of them at the Governor's, which measured twenty feet from the nose to the tip of the tail. It is well known, however, that the African lion—at least to the north of the line, is without mane,

which greatly detracts from its beauty. Korschud Pasha formerly possessed a tamed animal of this kind, which he had castrated, and had the teeth broken off, after which it became quite harmless. Nevertheless, it sometimes caused great embarrassment. One day the Governor was praying in a solitary chamber of his palace, with his face to the ground, when the lion entered, and laid itself upon him with its whole weight, so that he was long incapable of moving, and almost smothered, before the called-for assistance arrived. The joke, however, seemed to have much amused the lion itself, for when on the following Friday the Kadi visited the Governor in a suit of crimson, the brute, perhaps still more excited by the unusual colour, stole behind him, sprang upon his back threw the horrified man of Allah to the ground, laid calmly, but perseveringly, upon him, in spite of the fearful shrieks of terror which the poor Kadi gave vent to, amid the laugh of the bystanders. But the Church is never to be insulted with impunity; this frolic, for fear of a dangerous repetition, cost the poor lion its life. The hunting of this king of the desert is here attended with less danger than in the forests of India, and at the Cape. They pursue him in the hottest

months, during the burning midday heat, when he is only able to run a short distance with difficulty ; and, as I have already remarked of my dog Susannis, throws himself panting beneath every bush, which affords the slightest shade, to get a few seconds breathing time. There are Arabs, which, in this way, will follow him quite alone with the assistance of a good horse, and a bag of stones, and by nothing else, but by repeatedly pelting him,* whenever the exhausted lion attempts to crouch down, at length effect his death without material danger.

Before I went away the Governor introduced me to his children, who looked quite as sickly as he himself, and also did not venture to seat themselves in his presence without receiving his command.

On returning home I received a visit from Signior Boreani, Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of Mehemet Ali. He is a man of refined manners and extensive information, to whom the Viceroy is chiefly indebted for the establishment of his shot manufactory in Kahira. He has been sent hither in order to penetrate as far as Fiezole or Fazoglu, and to examine the gold mines there, whilst Herr Russegger pursues the same business in Schiebun, on the White Nile.

Signior Boreani took his way from Korusko through the desert, and through the middle of that strange territory laid waste by volcanic eruptions, where strips of stony ground impregnated with iron, thousand of paces in length, are found melted in the form of long gradually tapering clubs. He there collected various remarkable productions; amongst others he gave me some fine specimens of that mineral curiosity interesting to laymen, which exactly resembles bullets cast by the hand of man (*Silico ferrugineux roulé*). From Berber he continued his journey by water, and suffered shipwreck at the last cataract, where he lost the greater part of his baggage, and wet to the skin, without change of clothes or shelter, was compelled to pass the whole night in the open air. He perhaps escaped the dangerous consequences of the cold he caught, only by having presence of mind to bleed himself with a penknife—in this country the best remedy on similar occasions. Signior Boreani had employed his stay here (where he still waited for further instructions) in forming a collection of stuffed beasts and birds: and when I visited him at his house the next day, I was really astonished at the number and excellent preservation thereof. I here saw for the

first time the white classical Ibis, which are only found after the last cataract, but which have entirely disappeared farther northwards. This amiable traveller was so generous as to give me an excellently preserved specimen of this bird, as well as some richly coloured colibris, besides two live parrots, all which I afterwards sent home in safety. He told me that he owed the greater part of his collection to the skill and untiring perseverance of a Negro hunter, trained by Herr Rüppel, whom he had here taken into his service. This man not only shot the animals, but also stuffed them with the rarest ingenuity. I believe that some of these birds, especially a very peculiar large and splendid description of Heron, are yet unknown in Europe, at any rate I have not met with them in any museum of natural history.

As I again saw several crocodiles sleeping on the opposite bank, without observing the sacred Sheik among them, I had myself rowed across in order to shoot one of them if possible. No result attended this fatiguing hunt; notwithstanding their apparent sleep the animals were so watchful that none of them would allow me to come within two hundred paces, without rising, and slowly creeping into the water, where

they are soon secure from every attack. The heat was terrible, and rose at two o'clock in the afternoon to 39° Reaumur (120° Fahrenheit) in the shade. As the crocodiles in the morning exhibited so much fear of me, thirsting for coolness, I determined in the evening to no longer show fear of them, and beneath my windows, where several boats in some measure protected me, to take a bath in the river, although I was assured, that precisely in the same place, but a few weeks before, the arm of a boy, playing at the edge of the water, had been bitten off. The Nile was here so deep close to the bank, that to bathe I was obliged to have myself tied to a rope, which was attached to one of the boats lying near, but the pleasure of the comparatively cold water, after the burning atmosphere, was so great, that it could neither be lessened by the danger nor the inconvenience of my position. I also remained unmolested for above a quarter of an hour in the refreshing element, whose value one can only learn in these countries fully to appreciate.

CHAPTER VIII.

NAVIGATION OF THE BLUE NILE TOWARDS THE
SOUTH, CONTINUED.

AFTER having rested sufficiently and made my arrangements, I went in the evening of the 6th May with the Kawass, three servants, and the *Dschaus* who had been at Manderah, on board the commodious, but rather defective, *Kangshe* of the Governor, to navigate the Blue Nile; in order to penetrate a little further, notwithstanding the approach of the rainy season, which we were daily expecting: a great undertaking for a *dilletante* who has the shady side of life before him, and who is not, *ex officio*, “*mandé par l’Angleterre ou la France*,” as the inscriptions of Linant and Caillaud, were worded,

nor sent by his country, but who wanders over the face of the earth for mere fancy; for travelling in the rainy season is often fatal to Europeans.

The Doctor followed in a second boat with his two slaves. A violent storm of dust, which rose at the very moment of our departure, forced us however to tarry until the next morning, in a protected bay close to the town. We subsequently had rather a favourable wind, but it served us little on account of the numerous windings and sudden turns of the river, so that the natives attached to the boat were obliged to assist in towing us along. Our progress was, however, very slow on the whole.

Three hours after we left Kartum we reached the ruins of *Soba* or *Saba*, which the ignorant Turks asserted to be the residence of the celebrated queen who visited the wise Solomon, (Solomon). We left the inspection of these ruins for our return, and after proceeding for three hours longer, anchored for the night near a cheerful village. Navigation is, on this river, very dangerous during the night, and I moreover wished to see as much of the country as possible. On landing to make a little excursion into the interior, during the cool of the

evening, we found the shores as densely inhabited, as Paradise, by a number of pelicans, black and white ibises, some of which build their nests on trees like storks, wild geese, ducks and many other aquatic birds ; but man was nowhere to be seen.

At last, however, we came upon a very pretty young girl, occupied by herself in a dourra-field, and who, as soon as she perceived us, prepared for flight. The Dschaus had some difficulty in making her remain, by calling out to her, but on our approach, we found her trembling violently in every limb. Before we came up to her, she called out anxiously, " Good people, are you sure you will not do me any harm? You will not eat me?" And it was not until we had repeatedly assured her that we only wished to ask the way of her, and admire the beautiful bead ornaments with which she was covered, that she approached a few paces with slow and cautious steps. She soon, however, become more friendly and smiled, though she still trembled and appeared frightened. I never in my life beheld any thing more virgin-like than the half timid, half curious, but amiable and good-natured behaviour of this charming girl, adorned by all the grace of innocent nature.

When she had gained a little more confidence, I made her a present of a small gold coin which she took in her hand, and examined with astonishment, but would not keep it. My explanation of its use appeared to her unintelligible, and she shook her head begging me to take it back. On my refusing to do so she laid it on a stone at my feet, saluted us very gracefully, and hurried back to her parents, who as we now perceived were at work on the outskirts of a large forest, a few hundred paces distant, which extended on the right and left to the verge of the horizon. A portion only of the trees, chiefly acacias, mimosas, nebkas, &c. were green, for this country is completely parched by the burning sun, until continued showers during the rainy season convert it for several months into the most luxuriant garden.

On the following day the shores of the river became more densely wooded, and beautifully green, so that the Negroes towing our boat experienced great difficulty in making their way through the bushes. I observed several species of willow, and a variety of elder, with large white blossoms, which are the only plants unprotected by innumerable spines, which threaten to deny the pedestrian the right of walking here. The river was very broad, and proportionately shallow,

but the shores were steep. The wind was southern, and contrary, but the air very cool, although the atmosphere was clouded. In the night it rained for a few hours, but not violently. We found the water of the Blue River, whose colour, by-the-bye, is dark ochre yellow, not so good in flavour as that of the Nile after the confluence of the two rivers; nor did it become so clear and crystalline after being filtered. As my wine was, unfortunately, finished, I felt this want the more; fortunately, however, milk is everywhere to be met with. Oil is unknown to the natives; they burn butter in their lamps instead, and use it also for their pomatum, and probably on that account feel a disgust at the idea of eating it.

Five crocodiles lay in the middle of the bay basking in the sun, on a small island, whilst Susannis, with his usual discourtesy, jumped heedlessly into the water to cool himself, close before them, and to my horror swam about near them, for he would have been a dainty morsel, and an easy prey to these monsters, now that the lean Spartan had become as fat as a monk, by living on meat and milk, without bread. He had now a rival in our favour—a little monkey, with a coal-black face, and no

bigger than my hand. I call him Abeleng, and bought him at Kartum. It is so tame and well brought up that it may be left at liberty without fear of its doing mischief. A petty larceny is the only sin Abeleng is ever guilty of, and as his evil conscience in these cases only heightens his drollery, he is soon forgiven. He is bitterly jealous of Susannis, who, on his part, looks down upon him with contempt.*

The river continues to meander in a serpentine course, although it now flows through a flat country. Towards the evening, the wind changed several times, and we had a severe thunder-storm, accompanied by very heavy rain, which penetrated through the ceiling of my cabin, and thoroughly wetted all the luggage in the Doctor's boat, which was not so well covered as mine. We passed the night near a well-built village named Nouba; it was surrounded by fertile fields, and we observed very few *sakis*, for the rainy season suffices for all the irrigation the cultivation of the fields requires.

* This little monkey is still living, and enjoying its health in the forests of Lusatia, but it has unfortunately increased to four times its original size, and is no longer as good tempered as it was formerly.

We wandered about by moonlight along the shore, until a sudden and oppressive heat induced us to seek our couch on the water, where it was cooler. In the night it became so cold and windy that I was compelled to shut up all the windows, and could scarcely keep myself warm under a double covering. I also suffered from a stiff neck for a few days, in consequence. These sudden changes of temperature, at this time of the year, render the rainy season very dangerous to Europeans, and the more so, since travellers, generally speaking, find but few means of protecting themselves against them. The cold in this climate produces total inaction of the abdominal viscera, frequently leading to organic *lesions*, which may destroy life. Care in the adaptation of dress to the vicissitudes of the weather, a well-caulked cabin in the boat, and an air-tight English tent on shore, with a light, but large, fur cloak, and, if possible, a continued supply of light wines, or good beer, would, probably, suffice to ward off all the evil consequences of the rainy season, and then, with caution and moderation in enjoyments, we should not be exposed to fevers, dysenteries and inflammatory diseases, excepting always the epidemics, against which there is no protection but removal

from their sphere. In other countries, these minute precautions might be termed indulgences, but here, where a trifling neglect of them is often punished with death, it appears to me unwise to depend too much on a good constitution, and the reader must, therefore, pardon me if I frequently recur to this dry topic. It is a caution whose importance can only be properly appreciated and understood in this country. As far as we ourselves are concerned, we are, although totally in want of all those articles mentioned, in tolerable health, with the exception of being troubled by an itching eruption, covering a portion of the body, like a nettle-rash, a complaint from which most travellers suffer in Egypt during the rise of the Nile. It is said to be beneficial, and a very good symptom, but it is very troublesome for all that; for it, at first, causes an insupportable pruritus, and, when it desiccates, it stings like the pricking of needles.

On the 9th of May, we sailed for the most part along barren shores of sand. The woods had receded to a distance. In a evening, a hippopotamus made its appearance near our bark, but did not remain long in sight. A sharp breeze frequently swelled our sails, and the

heat was but slight, so that the journey might on the whole, be termed agreeable. Convenient as the river undoubtedly is, in many respects, it is far less agreeable for those who are desirous of gaining information, than a journey by land. There is an absence of variety, and we see too little during the day ; for this species of travelling resembles that adopted by Englishmen, who make their tour of Europe in a post-chaise ; and they have the advantage of communing at least with innkeepers, while we have only to do with hippopotamuses and crocodiles. It would be advisable to take a couple of donkeys in the Kangshe, in order to be able to make an excursion into the interior of the most interesting spots without loss of time, for walking we begin to feel too much for us, especially during the heat of the day. We feel too exhausted, and every exertion is dangerous, and the more menacing, since the climate enervates both body and mind considerably, and timidity gradually takes the place of one's previous confidence and courage.

We caught sight of a beautifully built village, by the glare of the setting sun. All the houses appeared to be as large as the palaces of Schendy and Metemma ; this view was a very charming

interruption to the monotony of the scene, and gave us a very favourable impression of the affluence of the country. A magnificent tree of the height and breadth of an old Linden, with similarly shaped leaves, but of a darker green, and more brilliancy of colour, stood close to a double *saki* before the centre of the village. It has a purple inflorescence, and bears pods whose scarlet berries, when ripe, form a considerable article of traffic, as ornaments for ladies. They are the same berries, of which, as it will be remembered by the reader, I bought a whole peck at the bazaar at Metemma, to send as presents to my lady friends in Europe. Soon after this, the heavens became clouded, forming a premature night, and we were surrounded by three thunder-storms ; we had one in our rear, and one at either side of us. They fired their lightning as if from batteries at us, with tremendous roars of thunder, but fortunately we escaped unhurt. To add to this, a violent gale blew from the north, which drove our boat onwards, although we had furled all our sails, and were proceeding against the stream with greater rapidity than we liked. After continuing this rapid progress for about half an hour, the river made a sudden bend, and as the gale caught us now in

the flank, we were compelled to fasten the boat to the shore and pitch our tents for a time. The storm and lightning did not cease for one moment during the night, but the kind heavens spared us the annoyance of showers, which we dreaded above all things, as we were provided with scarcely any protection against them. This was, however, only a temporary respite, for shortly after sunrise the rain descended in torrents upon us, and the wind blowing furiously against us, prevented all further progress, as it would have been an impossibility, even with the assistance of a hundred additional Negroes, to tow the heavy boat against the wind. The rain poured as freely through the softened covering of my cabin, as it fell on deck, and drove me quickly from my bed. Where could I now find shelter?—At last I conceived the happy idea of having my Turkish tent pitched, as well as it could be done, over my cabin, and although the former is not waterproof, yet the double covering afforded me some protection. Thus tolerably defended against the rain, I had no occupation left me, if I did not wish to remain totally idle, but to sit myself down at my desk, (for an excursion would have been impossible,) and to write down all manner of philanthropic remarks

on the curiosity or vanity, which drives us Europeans over the face of the earth; but my observations sometimes strongly inclined to the same result as Molière's, when he exclaims : "*qu' allais-je faire dans cette galère !*"

In this fit of melancholy, I was suddenly and unexpectedly interrupted by Abeleng, who had leaped upon the table without my observing him. He now drew the pen gently from my hand, as if he were about to add a postscript, which certainly would have given my work the stamp of inestimable originality. The malicious beast, however, only looked at me with the most irresistible comic gravity and sparkling eye, tore the pen in pieces with his teeth, and then threw it into a corner of the cabin.—Truly, a bitter satire ! Authors, however, are incorrigible, even if monkeys take the trouble of reviewing them; thus the destroyed pen was replaced by afresh one, and Heaven grant that the reader may not be displeased at the result.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the storm had so far abated, that, thanks to the great exertions of the crew, our boat was once more afloat. The shores continued flat and uninteresting, although bordered with more brushwood than yesterday. Large forests were still

discernible beyond the plains of white sand in the distance. We saw very few villages, but frequently observed large herds of goats, and a drove of many hundred camels, descending to the river to drink,—circumstances all auguring well for the affluence of the natives. Ackermann, my valet, who had retained his strength better than I, walked several miles along the shore, and observed many round and pointed-roofed straw huts, belonging to the Negroes, dispersed through the forest. He saw the natives eat the leaf of a species of gourd, with eagerness, and they offered him, very hospitably, the dried seed of the fruit, as a greater delicacy; but they do not appear to have suited his taste. Green parrots were very plentiful in the forests, and he brought us a few specimens, and a beautiful bird with red, white, and green plumage, of a larger size. He had pursued a giraffe, to the destruction of his clothes, in vain; for the prickly shrubs can only be penetrated with a hatchet. The wild pigeons he had shot we found larger, and of better taste, than those of Egypt and Nubia.* They were the more

* The geographers extend the limits of *Nubia*, on most of their maps, to *Fazol*; but the Turks make the

welcome to us, since we had subsisted from the time of our departure from Kartum, on mutton and lukewarm yellow water, and bad biscuit soaked in the latter.

On the following night, we were subjected to a yet severer trial, for the thunder storms returned, and on this occasion with a deluge which nothing could resist. Awakened by three or four rivulets, which poured down like cataracts upon my bed, I reached, by the glare of the lightning, my umbrella; but as this proved of no use, and no spot in the whole cabin remained dry, I submitted to my fate, and warming the water, by which I was totally surrounded, with the heat of my body, I determined upon giving myself up to the elements, in the position I was then in. I really went to sleep again in this manner; and although I could scarcely rise with stiffness, the next morning, powerful exercise, and a sweating bath in the sun, which had re-appeared, prevented all evil consequences. Our luggage suffered far more; even the mahogany case of my large telescope crumbled to pieces like sponge, and the brass

last cataract its extreme frontier, as I have before observed, and there their *Sudan* commences.

work and glasses fell off, so that I had great difficulty in restoring it to a state of imperfect utility, by mending it with glue and pack-thread. It was a tragico-comical circumstance, that the gay colours with which our cabin was distempered, were transferred to my person, the clothes lying about, the linen, &c. ; this recalled forcibly to my mind, the "*malheurs et aventures, d'Arlequin,*" to whom my exterior bore a striking resemblance.

On the 11th, we halted at a well-built village, which had the appearance of having been recently erected, and called *Quad-Abulfroent*, where a Kaschef resides, to take in fresh supplies. I landed, and waded through the mud, into which the heavy rains had converted the fertile soil, to the residence of the Kaschef. The village, whose site was rather more elevated, was dryer, and presented a very cheerful appearance. The houses were irregularly grouped, but erected at convenient distances from each other, and surrounded by broad Doum-palms and high tamarisks, a tree we first became acquainted with here. Some of the houses were of a quadrangular shape, with a flat terrace above them; others were round, with pointed cane roofs, but as evenly and well thatched as the cottages in England;

the walls, however, were, in accordance with the custom of the country, constructed of mud and chopped straw. We were told that the soil is in this place so fertile, that in a year in which an ordinary fall of rain takes place, sufficient provision for the seven coming years may be grown. Unfortunately, however, for the last ten years the rainy season had not been complete, and this had produced a scarcity of provisions. The people were in hopes of a greater blessing this year, for the rainy season had set in a fortnight before its usual period, and with all the appearance of a heavy fall of rain.

The benefit these people would derive from the rain, reconciled us in a great measure to the inconveniences we had to expect from it ;—for when was there a fortunate occurrence, by which a few were not sufferers ! A number of black and white birds, and some quite white, belonging to the genus of the Ibis, or allied to it, had chosen the high trees in the vicinity of the huts for their abode, and hung like their fruit from the branches; some of them had even built their nests there. The inhabitants appear to have held them in great respect, from time immemorial, although they no longer worship them. They are called here *Simbilleh*.

Before embarking, I paid a visit to the Kaschef's well cultivated garden, where I was presented with a basket of grapes and water-melons, which were very acceptable ; and stretched comfortably on an engareb covered with cushions, under the shade of an arbour of vines, I smoked a few pipes of native tobacco, which has a bright, greenish-yellow colour, and a very mild flavour. It was only now, approaching near the 14th degree of latitude, that we were introduced to the true tropical climate ; and my sorrow was greatly augmented at entering these regions three months too early, or too late, for if it had not been for this circumstance, I might perhaps have penetrated further than any traveller before me, because I had far more means at my command, through the kindness of Mehemet Ali, than any of my predecessors. But to defy this murderous season, without preparation, from beginning to end, would be to rely too much on Providence, independent of the rule that all excesses are hurtful, if we wish to keep body and soul in health. Although endowed by nature with a tolerable degree of elasticity, I gradually feel that it is time to change my dress, and sometimes fear that I am already so far *Africanized*, that I shall be obliged, on my return, to go

through a fresh course of European *bon ton*. At home, where everything is subject to fashion,—politics, dress, manners, and literature—whilst here every thing has remained stationary for thousands of years, how Gothic and Arabian must I already appear ! how antiquated and foreign my whole person ! how unacquainted I shall be with all the passing interests of the day ! —I shall feel like one of the seven sleepers awakened !

“ You shall be my consolation,” I now exclaimed, agreeably surprised by the increasing splendour of the country ; “ you impenetrable forests, who this day, for the first time, reach with your majestic foliage the water’s edge, on the right and left shore, whilst we gently glide along the quiet stream ; you, too, monsters of the deep, at whom we have hitherto shot our powder away in vain ; and you, colossal vultures, who from the highest summits of the trees where you are cradled, stare in astonishment down upon our boat ; and you, gaudy plumed parrots, who croak our welcome ; and you, ye fish-devouring pelicans, ye elephants, giraffes, and gazelles, who quench your thirst in the muddy waters of the river ; and, above all, you comical

tribe of black, green, and yellowish monkeys, who leap, in families, from branch to branch for our amusement, or dance with droll grimaces, and allow yourselves to be observed by us at our leisure, undisturbed and unembarrassed in your state of nature :—you form, for the present, our public, adorned, at least, with all the candour and grace of nature. Whenever we fly to her maternal bosom we find our true home. I feel something of your divine freedom, you dear wild animals, which overcomes my prior gloomy and cowardly thoughts.” My friend, an old Austrian *employé*, was quite right when he frequently repeated to me — “ Everything is compensated for in this world, if we only know how to take a correct view of things.” On entering suddenly on a scene, as I left the boat, so totally differing from what we had hitherto witnessed, that a magic wand seemed to have created it ; the majestic river, with the two ornamental Kangshes, and the long row of naked Negroes towing them, and wading in the water, afforded from the land a prospect of no less originality in its deceptive effect than the picture in our imagination of the royal tombs of Thebes.

On the evening of this beautiful day, my servant caused us some uneasiness ; he had lost

his way on a hunting excursion, and did not reach our place of anchorage until ten o'clock in the morning, although we fired many signal guns, and lighted fires to attract his attention. On his return, he had not even any entertaining adventures to relate: he had killed several birds, and met an hyena, which have already become very prosaic monsters here.

On the 12th, I went, an hour before sun-rise, into the forest, which I found more accessible and lighter than usual: my object was to inspect the ruins of a place in the interior of the forest which had once been considerable, but which was totally destroyed by Ismail's troops. No spot could be more romantic, no forest-scene more luxuriant — more green — more solitary, and poetical! Single groups of magnificent tamarind trees, not inferior to our oaks, rose from among old acacias, nebecks, or nebkas, tuntums and heglyds (I am unable to give the botanical names, nor could the Doctor assist me, who has only studied the officinal plants); and on penetrating two miles further into the interior, I had the pleasure of seeing two specimens of those gigantic *Adansonia*s of which Mustapha Bey had before spoken to me; they are here termed Kongulos. The stem of the largest measured,

at a distance of two feet from the ground, fifty-five feet in circumference. The leaves of its spreading branches resembled those of our nut trees, but the verdure was more intense; the wood was spongy, like cork, and the whole appearance of the immense mass very imposing. I think this is the same tree met with in South America, by the name of "*Boabab*" (*Adansonia digitala*, as I subsequently heard).

The specimen in question might have been about 80 or 90 feet in height, the rest were considerably smaller, but they all appeared to be unhealthy; at least, the tamarind trees of similar height surpassed them in richness and density of foliage. Their proper climate begins at a more southern degree of latitude. This beautiful forest was but in few places overgrown with brush-wood, so that one could walk without difficulty under the shade of the trees, on the young grass, which was luxuriantly shooting forth, favoured by the rain that had fallen. We found the ground covered everywhere with a beautiful insect of a deep red colour, like the wild poppy and with a surface as smooth as velvet. The vegetation, studded singularly with these red spots, might have been compared to a carpet of jasper, and the illusion was kept up by

the total absence of flowers, or of other tints which might have relieved the green and red colour of the ground. The insect was of the size of a rose-scarabee, and in conformation varying between a bug and a spider. I squeezed some of them between paper, which was instantly dyed of a deep yellow colour, and I do not doubt that, considering the immense number of the animals at this season, a new pigment of great commercial value might be derived from them. A few butterflies, but no new varieties of them, made their appearance, and a very large species of locust, of a bright yellow colour, with brilliant blue and red spots, and the under surface of the *elytra* of a dark red tint. We saw but few birds, and no quadrupeds, but we followed the track of an elephant, and afterwards came upon that of a lion, and a goat which had been its prey. This carcase confirmed, in a remarkable manner, Korschud Pasha's assertion, which I had until now regarded as fabulous :—that the African lion, like a true epicure, when not suffering from a dearth of food, only selects the head, liver, and heart of the animals he destroys. These parts were all missing in the carcase of the goat, which was otherwise untouched.

After continuing my walk for about two hours, I was necessitated by the heat, which became oppressive, in spite of the shade, and on account of the total exhaustion under which I laboured, to go in search of the boat which had followed us up the river ; although I would willingly have spent the whole day in excursions of discovery. I again advise every robust traveller, if it be in any way possible, to give the preference to a journey by land, which takes less time than the navigation of the river, on account of its innumerable windings.

In the afternoon we reached the town of Abu-Harass, on the right shore of the river. As the Kaschef was absent, his brother and the commandant of the irregular cavalry, came to the landing place to receive me, and I accompanied them afterwards to the house of the Kaschef, to take refreshments. The officer mentioned had returned a fortnight before from a slave-hunt, which had extended almost to the territory of the Tengas, on the White River, and with the result of which he appeared very contented. He also stated that the Bahr-el-Abiad, as far as he had navigated it, shewed no symptom of a decrease in its supply of water ; whilst the Blue River has at Fazoli scarcely more than

three feet of water in the spring before it begins to rise. He unfortunately had not been as far as Korschud Pasha, and could not give me any further information concerning the famous Pyramids of Taipha-san.*

Among the company which had assembled around us, was the Kaschef of Quad-Medina, the chief township in the province, and all of them entreated me to remain till the morning, as the night was too dark for travelling, and a number of rocks obstructed the river in its course. As I shall have plenty of time on my return to sojourn here for a considerable period, and knowing the pretexts so readily invented by my two Kawasses and the Rais of the Tahabia, to cause delay at any place where they were well treated, I insisted on departing, although the heavens even seemed to conspire against me, for several thunder-storms threatened us, and a strong south-wind blew from an adverse quarter.

* Although in the reports of the recent expedition of Mehemet Ali no mention is made of these pyramids, we cannot, if we take the number of arms and tributary streams of the Bahr-el-Abiad into consideration, look upon them as altogether fabulous, at least not with any degree of certainty.

I had scarcely, however, continued my journey half-an-hour, on a river much obstructed by rocks, where the boats several times turned round in spite of all the dexterity of our crew, and frequently came in contact with the cliffs, when it began to grow obscure, and a true Egyptian darkness forced us at last to bring to. It was, indeed, high time to do so, for the storm broke upon us with more than usual fury. I was not a little astonished at seeing a number of Negroes running about on the shore, notwithstanding the violence of the weather, and bearing large lanterns, looking like so many *ignes fatui*. They were in fact the *avant couriers* of the Turks we had just left, who had followed with great courtesy on horseback to fetch me back and place me under protection. In little attentions of this kind the Mussulmans are really exemplary, and dread no inconvenience to themselves, provided they have a good motive for such conduct, such as the urgent recommendation of the dreaded Korschud Pasha in this case, whose word is more a law among his subordinates, than that of Mehemet Ali himself. I declined their kind offer, however, with many thanks; for my cabin has, by means of a third covering of beautifully-worked matting, manufac-

tured here, and by other repairs, been rendered almost water-tight ; it will at least resist the rain for several hours—and who knows whether I should have met similar conveniences in the house of the Kaschef? I moreover wished to profit by the first favourable moment for my farther progress in the morning. I was early awakened, after passing a good night in a tolerable state of dryness, by a glorious sun, which shone on the junction of the Rahad with the Blue River. The shores of the Rahad were steep, and the river about 100 feet in breadth ; it had no water of its own, but a little backwater from the Bahr-el-Asrack (*Blue Nile*). Continual bends in the river, and contrary winds, delayed us more than half the day, in performing the distance to Quad-Medina, which may be done by land in less than three hours. The forest surrounding us still retained a rich and diversified appearance, which gave the scene the appearance of an European summer, for everything had become green, both the foliage and grass ; and many species of willows and poplars, and tujas and ash-trees, were frequently to be met with ; even the acacias and mimosas, which constitute the chief number, have nothing foreign in our eyes, and

the palms and other exotics, which differ most in appearance from our trees, were not to be met with in this place. This remark, however, is only relative, for in the midst of this scene many things bore a far less familiar character. But, I find, that in distant countries we are always pleased with a similarity in scenery to our own native country ; let it occur as often as it may, it appears to us like a friendly greeting from our home.

It was my intention to remain only half an hour at Quad-Medina, and then to continue my journey as rapidly as possible. In this world, however, every thing turns out differently from that we thought, and I have, therefore, long ago given up all preconcerted plans, as my present tedious journey will sufficiently prove. I began it with the intention of making an excursion of three months' duration, and I have now wandered about on the face of the earth for four years, in two different quarters of the globe. In a similar manner, *Quad-Medina*, at the commencement of the 13° of latitude, was the most distant point to which I penetrated this time, if I except a short excursion I subsequently made by land to the junction of the Dender with the Blue River, in the old province of

Sennar. Doctor Koch, who had complained for a few days of indisposition, was, in the evening, attacked with the fever of the country, accompanied by very alarming symptoms, forcing him to give orders to have himself conveyed to an Italian apothecary, named Bartolo, on whose assistance and attention he might rely. I did not wish to allow him to proceed farther alone, and as the apothecary, who knows the country as far as Fazoli well, and the Kaschef and commandant of the troops, all assured me that I should find my progress increase daily in difficulties during the rainy season, I the more willingly brought the long *impromptu* excursion from Quadi-Halfa to a termination, and submitted to fate ; more especially when I heard that the natives never undertake a journey during this season, and that I should meet with a repetition of all I had seen until I had proceeded far beyond the town of Sennar.

I now determined to employ the time intervening, until the Doctor's recovery, if possible, in the difficult excursion to Manderah, of which the accounts I had heard in various places were very obscure and contradictory.

The misfortune of having undertaken the journey at this unfavourable season of the year,

was a continual drag upon my movements, and I earnestly advise all travellers for the future, to make their arrangements so that they reach Kartum in November; thus they will have the winter before them, which is here like spring. The scarcity of water in the desert during that season, forces all the animals the most interesting to Europeans, such as elephants, lions, panthers, giraffes, antelopes of all kinds, &c. and even a large portion of the innumerable varieties of birds, to flock in herds round the river, where they can daily quench their thirst without trouble.

Now that the rain-water has collected in all the excavations and hollows in the desert, in the forests, and in the mountains, they become scarce, and at a subsequent period, all the densest forests near the river appear as if they were totally uninhabited. The chief cause of this desertion of the forests, appears to be a very poisonous fly met with at this season in their interior, which is more especially dreaded by the elephants. I had the good fortune, however, to observe a troop of these gigantic animals in the distance, through my telescope, in the neighbourhood of Quad-Medina; they were about taking their departure. This spectacle

was considered a great rarity at this advanced season. In the winter nothing is more common than to meet troops of 50 or 60, and even 100 animals, some of which are said to attain an almost incredible size. The Pasha at Kartum possesses two tusks weighing — oka (— pounds*), and several persons confirmed a story told me by the Kaschef of this place: that an elephant had been caught three years since near Quad-Medina, in whose abdomen a man on horseback could have found room when the *viscera* were removed. The manner in which this animal was caught was also original. They had permitted the enormous beast to enter a dourra-field, where it gorged itself so with its favourite food, that eight ardeps (an ardep is about one bushel) of the grain were found in an undigested state in its stomach. Immediately afterwards, as had been anticipated, it went down to the river to drink—the dourra swelled to such an extent, that the animal could not move, and shortly afterwards, when the pur-

* The numbers are so much obliterated in my notebook, that I am obliged, in order to adhere to truth, to leave them blank.

suit began, its stomach burst. The elephants here are, generally speaking, as peaceable as the hippopotami; but the more dangerous when they are wounded, and many a rider and a good horse, when the former loses his presence of mind to escape from the danger by making numerous rapid turns, has been overtaken and destroyed. Korschud Pasha was once in the most imminent peril of his life, and only escaped by taking a desperate leap over a ravine. Two of his Mamelukes, whose horses were unable to keep up with him, in spite of all their endeavours, were overtaken by the furiously enraged animal, tossed with their horses into the air, and stamped to an amorphous mass on their fall. The animal was so furious, that even after their death, it broke the arms and lances of its assailants into shivers with its trunk.

Notwithstanding this danger, there is a man at present living in the Sennar, well known to all the natives, and named, on account of his courage and strength, "*Tor*" (the Steer), who has followed, for many years, no other occupation but that of hunting elephants, crocodiles, and hippopotami. Although this man always attacks them alone, it is a great rarity if a monster he has once commenced the pursuit of,

ever escape him. He is only armed for the attack with a heavy spear, and a short, well-sharpened, double-edged sword, which he uses in the following manner: creeping, like a reptile, along the ground, he approaches so near the elephant that he can almost touch it, when he suddenly divides the back tendons of one of its heels, and then conceals himself as quickly again among the foliage. The elephant, who cannot make out what has happened to him, as he sees no enemy near, endeavours to make his escape as quickly as he can on three legs, but the loss of blood, and consequent exhaustion, soon force him to lie down. The huntsman, who has not for a moment lost sight of him, profiting by this, hastens forward, and forces his spear quickly into a portion of the body where a wound is fatal. To slay crocodiles, he takes with him, as I was told, a couple of dogs, or, in default of these, two children, and attaches them close to the banks of the river, concealing himself under a heap of branches near them. As soon as the crocodile approaches and turns round to brush the seductive object into the water with its tail, it receives the spear of the practised huntsman in its neck, who swims after it until it reappears, exhausted

with the loss of blood, on the surface of the water: *Tor* now vaults upon its back, and gives it the finishing stroke at his convenience. The hippopotamus becomes his prey in a similar manner. He digs a pit in the sand, near the place where he knows it to land for pasture, and covering himself well by brushwood, awaits the moment at which the animal will quietly and heedlessly pass him, when he instantly plunges his spear into its flanks, and thus quickly puts an end to its existence. It is difficult to form an idea of the strength and courage required for this species of hunting; but where these essential qualities pre-exist, practice soon makes the execution easy, and the result certain.

Fazoli and the mountainous districts to the east of the Blue River, which have never yet been visited by an European, appear to conceal many curiosities of natural history; some of which are totally unknown to us. Thus, the most respectable people here, many of whom had resided for a long time in that country, spoke of a bird of brownish-red and black plumage, which is somewhat larger than a pigeon. The extremities of its wings are singularly bifid, so that when the wings are spread, it appears to have *four wings*, like a butterfly.

It is only seen flying in the evening, and is a very rare bird. The military surgeon, a Frenchman, and the Italian naturalist, *Botta*, who passed a considerable time in Sennar, gave themselves a great deal of trouble to find it, but without success. Its existence, however, cannot be doubted, as so many hundreds of natives agree in the description they give of it; and though the information of these people is not to be depended upon as regards *antiquities*, because they have but a very imperfect conception of them, I always found their remarks on plants and animals correct. I have already mentioned, that I made numerous inquiries respecting the unicorn, and always had the rhinoceros distinctly described to me; this will prove that they do not purposely give wrong answers to meet the wishes of the querist.

The Kaschef, a Circassian, and formerly a slave of Korschud Pasha (as were most of the Kaschefs in the Sudan), was a man of social habits, and overwhelmed me with attentions of all kinds. I passed the most of the time of my sojourn at Quad-Medina during the day in his presence, smoking innumerable pipes of tobacco, and drinking innumerable cups of coffee and sherbet, and relieving this monotony by very admirable

preserves of figs, melons, grapes, apricots, and cherries, which were daily sent to the Kaschef, from his harem. The commandant of the regular troops, a very social man also, and the Melek-Keubal, who commanded 1000 free Arabs, and several of the domestic officers of the Kaschef, were generally present. The Melek, although jet black, was a very handsome young man of great elegance of *tournure*. He dressed with most scrupulous neatness and cleanliness, (a quality not frequently met with in the Eastern nations,) and his manners were calculated to turn the heads of most of our ladies. He reminded me strongly of Jussuf, in Algiers; and like him, bears the reputation of great personal valour. He had just returned from an expedition to Takka, a country almost unknown to Europeans, where he had been to collect tribute. The borders of this country are not defined on Caillaud's map, but it is placed in a certain measure, at a venture, between Goss-Redshab, and the river Atbarrah, the Red Sea, and Abyssinia.

A portion of the large population of that country now pays tribute to the Viceroy, but it has always to be collected by an armed force. The Melek reported that the wide plains of

Takka are very densely populated ; and that the capital of the same name is six times larger than Kartum. At a distance of a few days march from Takka, there are, according to his account, close to the foot of a large chain of mountains, extensive ruins of an ancient town, with many pillars, rows of sphinxes, (or sheep, as he called them,) and giants on horseback, (colossal statues,) the latter very much damaged, but all formed of very hard stone (probably granite).

Although I will not say much in favour of the accuracy of this information, especially as regards the colossal statues *on horseback*, I think it worth while to draw the attention of travellers to the circumstance ; and as, during the first months of each year, troops are sent into this country, they would have no difficulty in learning the exact time, and attaching themselves to the expedition. In these remote districts there is much of the country unexplored.

On one occasion we began to talk on religious subjects ; the conversation was brought on by the presence of my dog Susannis, which, as an unclean animal in the eyes of the Mooslim, was only tolerated in the room out of consideration for me. I thought to make myself popular by repeating a few passages from the Koran, and

by expressing my sincere admiration of them ; but the Turks, in Mehemet Ali's kingdom, are now at their Voltairean epoch ; and appear to be on the point of changing their blind belief into a degree of unbelief, which is perhaps equally blind. My enthusiastic praise was received with a suppressed smile, and the subject soon dropped. At first I thought that this was done from bigotry, because it was thought indecorous for a Giaour to presume to praise the blessed Koran ; but on the next day I was convinced of my error. I was sitting alone with the Governor, who was comfortably extended on his divan, whilst my dragoman stood before us as interpreter, when Selim Kaschef said, with a satirical expression of countenance :—" You were praising our Koran very much yesterday, now I will tell you something in praise of it. A very pious man of this place used to read the Koran night and day, and a short time afterwards he lost his senses over it, a consequence I have frequently observed to attend too laborious an adherence to the same occupation, although I am myself well versed in the book. Our saint—for the mania brought on by the Koran, is infallibly attended by this fixed idea—came one day before me, to announce, without further ceremony,

that the Koran commanded him to take not only life, but money away from me, and all the other Kaschefs who abuse their power, and to apply the money to pious purposes. I endeavoured at first to pacify the good man with kindness, and offered him, by way of an experiment, my money boxes, if he would spare my life. In his pious zeal to have both, he refused my offer. At last, it occurred to me, that there exists another powerful means of governing men beside the Koran, viz. the Kurbatsch, whereupon I ordered my friend, who, regardless of all entreaties, would neither spare my life nor money, to receive 500 good blows, and to be removed to the military hospital, until the time of his recovery. Would you believe it, the Kurbatsch had radically cured the madness the Koran had brought on, and the poor devil, who is now as sane as we are, felt very grateful to me for his miraculous cure. In this case," he added, laughing aloud, "you must confess, with all due respect to the holy words of the Prophet, that the Kurbatsch proved more powerful than the Koran." I was somewhat surprised, and thought in my mind, that Turkish *infidels* still remain true Turks.

Doctor Koch's illness had become more alarm-

ing, so that I had no course to pursue but to leave him to the best attention of the people, under protection of the Kaschef, and to make an attempt at discovering Mandera. As I could foresee that this endeavour would detain me for a long time in the neighbourhood, I hoped to find the Doctor recovered on my return. I was very sorry that he could not make up his mind to be attended at once by a Faki, like the natives, and the English doctor, Holroy, before him.

This mode of curing the fever of the country is in infallible repute ; and if the patient do not die, he is sure to recover in a week. I looked upon the whole affair, as it was imperfectly narrated to me, as a kind of cure by charms, an opinion I still held after a cursory inspection of a case ; for a paper, with letters written upon it by the operator, is merely burned on a charcoal fire, whilst the patient, leaning over it, and covered by a cloth, inhales the vapour. This causes, however, such violent convulsions in the patient that the aid of three or four persons is required to hold him under the cloth. When the operation is over, the patient is laid on an engareb, well covered, so that he perspires thoroughly, and must take nothing but

bread and lukewarm water during six days, at the termination of which period he is generally perfectly cured. I was assured, as I before mentioned, that this mode of cure is infallible ; but the incredulous infidel, the Kaschef, gave me the proper clue to the secret. A considerable dose of very potent cayenne pepper, which is grown here, and other ingredients of the same nature, are wrapped in the paper, and the infernal vapour of these things, renders it very difficult for the patient to bear with them, although he believes that the cabalistic words produce all his torments. It would be worth the trouble to try whether the same means will act as specifically against the ague in Europe as they do here.

CHAPTER IX.

CONTINUED SOJOURN IN THE SUDAN—
MANDERA.

My travelling retinue being increased by the addition of a new slave, whom I had bought, or rather redeemed, at this place, and a live ostrich, on the 15th May I again turned my sails towards the north. A violent contrary wind obliged us to tack almost the whole way to Abu-Harass, by which we were deprived of the advantage of swimming with the stream; but I gained by it on the other hand, the pleasure of a capital crocodile chase.

The sun was already sinking, and Abu-Harass in view, when one of the sailors informed me that four crocodiles were lying at a distance of

less than fifty paces from us, on an island of sand. I hastened instantly on deck, and saw with astonishment that none of these shy animals moved at our approach, but all remained perfectly torpid, and motionless, with their jaws wide apart. I instantly seized the loaded musket of one of the soldiers who had accompanied us, and fired at the one which lay nearest to us, and which measured about twelve feet in length. I hit it under the belly, but not sufficiently to kill it. It started up suddenly, as if terrified, and leapt with the agility of a lizard, and as quick as lightning into the water, which was coloured with its blood, without the others allowing themselves to be disturbed in the least, either by this spectacle, or by the report. The Kawass missed the second crocodile, and the ball lodged itself in the ground, immediately in front of the animal, so that the sand was thrown up; it crawled, though very slowly, and to all appearance with great difficulty, into the water; whither it was unfortunately immediately followed by the largest of the four animals, which lay close by its side.

Ackermann now handed me my gun, which I immediately fired without loss of time, at the last and smallest, and fortunately dispatched it,

the ball flying into its open jaws, and thus injuring several vital parts. The crocodile, which was a young one, lay sprawling at full length, and without even a convulsive movement. As soon, however, as we hurried ashore, and surrounded it, in order to capture it without loss of time, it quickly rose and crept with tolerable speed towards the river; but on its short course there, it received so many and such violent blows from the clubs of the Negroes, both on its neck and its head, that it soon fell down motionless, and covered with blood, and this time according to all appearance really dead. It had, however, by no means come to this pass, for after a few seconds it struck with great violence a treacherous blow with its tail, which was near hitting me, and threw one of the sailors with so much force on the sand, that his pipe flew up several yards into the air. Indeed, these creatures are tenacious of life to a most incredible degree. When the greater part of the hide had been drawn off the crocodile we had just slain, and all the entrails taken out, and they were employed in extracting the bones of the legs, preparatory to stuffing, it gave a final galvanic stroke with its tail, which knocked the men, who had formed a dense circle round the

body, about like chaff, although they soon recovered from their fright, and once more occupied their places, laughing and screaming with delight, for they rejoiced in the anticipation of a dainty meal; and, indeed, during the night the whole store of flesh, smelling strongly of musk, was consumed with great relish by these African gourmands.

When I disembarked in Abu-Harass, the brother of the Kaschef, who was still absent, came to meet me with truly calamitous information. It was not till now that I heard the real truth about Mandera; instead of a distance of 12 to 16 hours, as they had at first assured me, it was now discovered to be a march of from four to five days, without any chance of meeting, during the whole distance, a single well. This the Effendi assured us would render 150 camels necessary for the transport of water alone, as they were always obliged to be changed a troop at a time alternately, in order to continue fetching fresh water from the Nile. I could not, he said, possibly do with less, the Arabs in these parts being in a state of open insurrection, so that I should require an escort of at least one hundred men, to be a match for them.

And lastly, the Arabian Sheik, who alone was acquainted with that part of the country, and who yet possessed some authority there, where no other Turk could venture without danger, was unfortunately absent. They had, indeed, already sent in search of him, but it was not very probable that he could return before ten or twelve days. He added, however, that his brother's house, court, and estates, were at my uncontrolled disposal, and if I took any pleasure in hunting, five good horses with as many Arabs as I required, were always ready for me. Ostriches, leopards, wolves, wild cats, and gazelles, I should find in abundance; under these favourable auspices, this untoward delay appeared to me less painful, and after I had, in order not to allow their zeal to decrease, positively declared, I would not leave these parts without having first obtained minute information respecting the ruins of Mandera, let the obstacles be what they might, I accepted with thanks the offer to commence hunting on the following morning, and then retired to bed, to sleep over the rest in my own bark.

Unfortunately, however, a mischievous dæmon here suggested to me the idea of taking a dose of English salts, as a preservative against

the pernicious influence of the weather ; and I purposely mention this trifling circumstance, in order to shew the danger that attends the taking of physic, so useless in this climate. This refreshing draught, which is so mild and innoxious in Europe, was, in fact, near putting a stop to my earthly career. For from this day, I was attacked by an obstinate dysentery, accompanied by a continually increasing debility and aversion to all nutriment, so that my physical powers was no longer capable of following the will.

For five days, during which time rain and sunshine alternated, accompanied by continued oppressive heat, without intermission, and my room, only protected by some very defective wooden shutters, was frequently during the violent wind filled with water or dust,—I could not quit the house, nor scarcely even my bed, owing to the violent colic I suffered.

On the 21st May, the weather being fine, I, with a violent effort, rose to join in the chase. We went forth, a large party, to hunt the panther, but only met with some ostriches, at which we could not get, owing to the bushes and shrubs which abound in this part of the country. We also met with a number of hares, which the Arabs kill very cleverly, with short sticks, re-

sembling crutches, and thrown with incredibly just aim. We then pursued for a long time, at our horses full speed, two specimens of that beautiful species of heron, with the tall bush of feathers on its head, known here by the name of *ab-seng*, one of which I killed with my pistol. At last, my valet shot a wild cat of a shining yellow colour, with black spots, the skin of which has safely arrived in our Fatherland. During this chase, we rode through very romantic forests, which threw their shadow over several villages, that lay distributed here and there; and passed twice or thrice the bed of the Rahad, which lay perfectly dry, whose banks however appeared every where equally high and steep. I would gladly have prolonged the excursion farther; feeling myself, however, frequently near fainting, and being often obliged to dismount; and at last, not being able any longer to keep my seat on horseback, I was compelled to return directly after noon. On my return, I found the Sheik of Quad-el-Kerim had arrived much sooner than we had expected; the information he gave us, however, was much worse than that of the Effendi. He declared he could not undertake to conduct the expedition, with an escort of less than 200 men and 400 camels, for the

conveyance both of the former, and for the transport of water. He also required another week for the necessary preparations. All my persuasions were lost on him.

The Kaschef had also returned; and the following day, he, with his brother, the Sheik, and other persons of rank amongst the Arabs, held a grand divan to consult on this matter; upon which the Mussulmans unanimously arrived at the conclusion, that it would be impracticable, and could not be justified to Korschud Pasha, to sally forth at random, with such a retinue as the Sheik desired, only to search after ruins, the existence of which was not even certain, and that, too, without water, and in a country whose inhabitants were inimically disposed. If I, however, still insisted on the execution of my plan, they should be obliged to report it to Kartum, as at all events, the expenses of such an undertaking would certainly be too considerable to justify them in exposing themselves without express authority to such a responsibility.

This I, of course, wished to avoid, and, therefore, contented myself with requesting them to endeavour to obtain more minute information, and then to consider whether the plan could not be put in execution in a more reasonable

and less expensive way. I told them I would avail myself of the interval to make a shorter and less difficult excursion to the Dender, feeling rather better in health after the day I had spent hunting. This met with no obstacle; and with a very small retinue I set out on my road before sunrise. I was, however, so weak and exhausted, and suffered so much, that I can relate but very little of this expedition, which led us by pretty good roads, and through several small villages, almost continually in woods of thorn bushes, but without any trees, in the space of two days, to the Dender, after having met but a wretched lodging for the night, on our road, in a bed-room as hot as a baker's oven, and smelling abominably. For our supper they prepared for us some guinea-fowls, which we had frequently seen in the woods. I found the river, in its exterior appearance, very much like the Rahad, with banks of equal height, and not much broader, 200 feet at the utmost, but with a strong current, and much clearer water than the Blue River; and so deep, that in crossing it, the water reached above my horse's belly. They told us, however, that it would soon be impossible to cross it. The direction of its course from south-east, is in this part of the

country, for some length, almost parallel with the Blue River, whilst the Rahad flows into the latter at almost a right angle. Its banks were pretty densely covered with willows, and in several spots carefully cultivated. For the first time, for a long period, I here saw a native occupied in fishing; and, agreeably to the orders I gave him, he brought us a large fish of the most excellent flavour for our supper.

I passed an unpleasant night, and was glad therefore to hear in the morning that the Sheik had procured us a bark from Elkueh, in which I could return with less trouble and difficulty.

The river wound its course through uncommonly picturesque forests, here and there mixed with low porous rocks of chalk, but I could not observe any more boobabs. However, in Europe it will scarcely be believed, although every one of my travelling companions will bear witness, that we counted near Quad-Medina, at one and the same time on both sides of the river, no less than twenty-seven crocodiles, which, however, at our nearer approach, did not remain as quiet as their comrades at the chase, which I have before described, thus rendering the shots which were fired at them during their flight totally ineffectual. In Quad-Medina I was in-

formed that Doctor Koch continued ill, and had been conveyed to Abu-Harass, in order to enjoy there a better atmosphere, and that the Italian apothecary had accompanied him thither. They at the same time informed me, that at Musselinieh, a large town, eight hours distance from here, situate to the west towards the White River, a very grand Suk, (fair), would take place, on which occasion there was always a considerable concourse of people. I did not wish to lose, in the first place, this favourable opportunity of making myself a little better acquainted with the interior of the country, and secondly of observing the natives on a festive occasion, and at the same time perhaps of being enabled to make there all manner of interesting purchases, and therefore again quitted my bark to penetrate on camels and asses into the interior of the country. At 5 o'clock in the evening, I reached the village Fedessa, where a violent attack of colic, obliged me to remain during an hour in the Sheik's cottage in real agony. I occupied, moreover, but a wretched sick-bed, being a half-broken engareb, covered with a couple of torn bernous, and a pillow, the original colour of which could not be recognized, owing to the dirt. Close by me, against the rough clay wall,

on which a number of insects of all kinds were creeping about, stood a wooden pitcher of water which was never cleansed, and the clayey contents of which strongly resembled stale pale ale in appearance; near it, hung suspended a gourd-bottle, and every minute one naked Negro or another appeared, to quench his thirst from it; for the heat was oppressive in the highest degree, whilst the thunder of the already approaching storm growled over our heads.

It was with difficulty I endeavoured to gather strength and prepare for the continuation of our journey, after having in the meantime changed the beasts. The prospects of this journey were, however, as little agreeable, as the appearance of the company about me.

It appears that during the rainy season, several thunder-storms always approach together, for on this, as on several former occasions, three or four different storms were perceptible in the clouds at the same time, and threatened us with a most unwelcome bath. We were, however, fortunate enough to arrive at Musselinieh before the night had set in, and before the larger of the clouds had time to discharge themselves. We had been riding through a beautifully cultivated plain of most excellent soil,

during three hours after leaving Fedessa, and had observed in our route several considerable villages. As all their houses were only built in the shape of pointed roofs resting on the ground and made of plaited cane, they resembled large camps of tents, and had, with the bushes and trees surrounding them, a very agreeable effect.

Each of these huts is surrounded by a round or square court yard, protected by a hedge of thorny branches, so easily obtained in this neighbourhood, and on the old trees, as usual, hundreds of the stork-like white and black ibises had built their nests. Some of them had even in pairs confidently taken up their abode on the points of the roofs, low as these are. Ravens were likewise very frequent, and resemble in all respects those found in Europe; I, however, observed some of these with white rings round their necks, which I had not before met with.

Musselinieh—where besides the chief fair, which is at present held twice a week, every Tuesday and Saturday, an important market also takes place—is considerably larger than Quad-Medina, and built likewise with more elegance, and cleaner. It contains a mosque, and besides the numerous tent-like houses many

small palaces built of clay for the more wealthy inhabitants, in the shape of old Egyptian Py-lones, with terraced roofs. The largest house of this description is inhabited by the Sheik Ibrahim, a Hadshi, and a man of great consequence, with whom I took up my abode. It was, indeed, scarcely as comfortable a residence as one of our barns, but considered good enough here, and the entertainment would have been even more acceptable, had the state of my health but permitted me to participate in it ; for the Hadshi treated us, amongst other Turkish delicacies, with preserved ginger from India, of the very best quality. How gladly would not I have exchanged all these delicacies for a glass of clear water mixed with a little wine ! But here the Egyptian bardaks, (filtering-jugs) are no longer known, and nothing could be procur d but the lukewarm clay-water fetched from the Blue River, a great distance off, or water from a well in a village which had even a much more disagreeable brackish taste.

During the whole night I tossed about on my bed, amongst the -flashes of the lightning, and the noise of the rain, wholly unable to sleep with pain. I therefore lighted my paper lantern, the only one which I could save, as the wind whistling

through the open windows would permit no light to burn in any other manner; and read in the stereotyped edition of Voltaire's works, which M. Boreani had lent to me, for the tenth time the *Candide*, a work that had certainly something very wonderful and strange about it, in the desolate plains of Africa, but was perfectly applicable to my situation, as regards the philosophy.

The next morning I visited the Suk, which was held on an extensive plain, covered with booths, at the extremity of the village. Notwithstanding the number of people assembled, everything passed off with much greater order, and more quietly than at an European fair.

And I, although an object of general curiosity, was in no way importuned. I purchased a number of curiosities of the country, at remarkably reasonable prices; as sandals, amulets, weapons, ornaments for women, beautifully worked mats of straw and coloured leather, very tastefully matted dishes, baskets and covers of the same material; the latter of which are placed over the dishes to preserve the provisions from the innumerable flies; gold grain, coins made of shells, and numerous other articles.

Had I not felt so unwell, I should, perhaps

have observed more and taken notes; as it was, however, I thanked Heaven when I returned home, and could rest a few hours before my departure. During this the Sheik paid me a visit, in order to shew me a few testimonials of his hospitality, which had been furnished him by former travellers, and finished with the request, that I would be kind enough to do the same; this he declared was the only recompense for his entertainment he would accept of. This man was adored by the Arabs as a Saint; on one occasion, when he was reading his prayers aloud, four of them entered his apartment and instantly knelt down before him, kissing the hem of his dress. He continued to read on undisturbed, and only now and then, between the prayers, he said to them: "Essennetum!" (rise!) but in vain. They remained on their knees during half an hour, until he had ceased reading.

For my home voyage, I chose a more direct route, overland towards Abu-Harass, which led us for some time through the most delightful forest scenery. Here blossomed, in great abundance, the Turtum, a beautiful shrub, which although leafless, and merely bearing a superabundance of green shoots, resembling a quantity of hair, is withal of the most singular and picturesque

appearance, and is impenetrably thick. The little blossom of a deep rose-red colour, with which it was covered all over, must produce a great deal of honey, for all the butterflies of the Sudan seemed to have fixed upon this shrub as their rendezvous. It would not have cost me much trouble, had I been provided with necessary utensils, to have got together in a few days a complete collection of African butterflies. I observed all the different species known to me, and two or three which I believe to be unknown, or at least very scarce; but I had too little time, and felt too wretched, to amuse myself with chasing them. As much as we accelerated the pace of our animals, we did not arrive until the middle of the night at Abu-Harass, which I reached by crossing the river in my own bark, a swimming Negro having fetched it for me, and endeavoured on my couch to allay my pain, which gradually deprived me of all my strength and the desire for travelling.

When I, on the following day, visited Doctor Koch, I found him in a much more deplorable state than myself. He had already given up all hope of recovery, took leave of me in the most affecting manner, giving me some instructions in case of his demise, and then requested me,

with tears in his eyes, to have him sent to Kartum, that he might there be able to die in peace. This was, no doubt, the only means by which he could possibly be saved; and I therefore immediately made all the necessary preparations for his journey. Carried by ten Negroes, he was brought, in his bed, on board of my Tahabia, which instantly started with a favourable wind, as soon as we had taken a last farewell. It was a melancholy moment for both of us, for I remained behind, certainly in no enviable situation, and now even deprived of all medical assistance, in case of necessity, whilst all my own medicines had long since been insufficient. However, I have always calculated more upon my own good constitution, than on medical assistance; and could, to a certain degree, console myself with the idea, that my present indisposition was rather the result of the medicine I had taken, than caused by the influence of the climate and fatigue.

On the 25th, another divan was held respecting the expedition to Mandera, and they seemed inclined to exaggerate the difficulties it was attended with. I offered, with twenty safe and trustworthy men (whom I prefer to two hundred of the usual class), to undertake the tour, not-

withstanding my indisposition; but even this offer was refused me most peremptorily, the Kaschef declaring that he dared not expose me to such danger; which would be the less justifiable at present, for the expedition being by this time known all over the country, the gangs of robbers must naturally long since have received minute information of it, and therefore, expecting a rich prey, would perhaps fall with their whole united force upon us. He, however, was responsible with his own head for mine, and I surely could not wish to expose him to such danger. He added, however, that it was quite another thing, if I liked to send my dragoman on the expedition, as it seemed, after all, only my desire to obtain correct information about the ruins of Mandera. My dragoman, he continued, being young and vigorous enough to bear all the fatigues and privations, and moreover speaking the language of the Arabs as well as themselves, might easily, in the disguise of a Bedouin, steal through unobserved, and unmolested. The Sheik, moreover, offered to give him three of his most trustworthy people, as companions, who were all well acquainted with the country, and should be mounted on such excellent dromedaries, that in case of pursuit,

few would be able to overtake them; the Arabs of the desert not being furnished either with horses or guns—and for this little troop, *one* beast laden with water would, in case of emergency, be quite sufficient.

These representations were certainly so reasonable, that they left nothing at all to oppose. I had, moreover, three particular reasons for accepting the offer. In the first place, my own wretched state of health at the moment; secondly, my dragoman being so well qualified for an undertaking of this kind. This young man, who had devoted a great portion of his time to study, possesses so much love for antiquity, that with regard to the object in view, it was very immaterial whether he or I visited Mandera; yes, thought I to myself, he will perhaps, *ex officio*, make even more minute observations than myself, and likewise, so far as it is possible to be done without other instruments than a small pocket compass, be able to calculate correctly, or at least approximately, the geographical situation of Mandera, and of the most important ruins which he may meet with in the direction of his march, and the number of hours spent in it. In the third place, I was induced to comply, on considering the immense

expense which was avoided in this manner, and which I did not feel justified in charging the Government with.

I therefore gave Giovanni my benediction ; he too made his will, as Doctor Koch had done a few days before, and in the space of a few hours he was in the desert ; his impending fate being a dark mystery until it becomes the past. The past had been already rather dark for poor Giovanni. He is a native of Chios, at which place he, at the age of seven, saw his father, brothers, and sisters, murdered in his own presence, whilst he himself was carried off as a slave by a Candiotic Turk. At Alexandria he was ransomed by the present Austrian consul at Candia, M. Stuzzi, at that time dragoman at the Austrian consulate of that place ; by him he was adopted, and received a good education. Whilst yet a boy, he accompanied M. de Prokesch to Quadi-Halsa, who employed him on this voyage chiefly in measuring the antiquities, and in copying the hieroglyphics. He then made a voyage to Asia Minor and to Constantinople, studied during several years at Smyrna, at a later period in Italy, visited during his return his native country Chios, where he found his mother still living, who had, together with one

of his younger brothers, escaped like himself the general massacre; having again arrived at Candia at his foster-father's, and being for the time without employment, he entered my service as dragoman.

I remained until the 1st of June, in Abu-Harass, suffering continually the most severe pain, and rarely able to quit my bed. I had gradually become so weak, that I could scarcely walk without being led, and began to entertain serious fears respecting myself. I felt an aversion to all food, and the common rice-water only caused vomiting, and the most violent nausea. Of wine, or other strengthening medicaments, I had long since used my supply. Suddenly I felt an instinctive desire for a beverage, at which, no doubt, every physician will disapprovingly shake his head, in the case of a dysentery which had become chronic. This desire was after strong cold punch, a beverage, which by the by, I am not all partial to when in a state of health, and which I scarcely ever partake of. Fortunately I had the necessary materials wherewith to prepare it, for the country produced small green lemons, and I had a few bottles of Jamaica rum left, which I had taken with me, more for the benefit of my people than my own. This beve-

rage, frequently applied to, and made pretty strong, had a wonderful effect; and although I was by no means perfectly restored by it, yet the ailment, and especially the pain, was considerably relieved; I was at length enabled to eat, and slowly recovered my diminished strength. I will not advise anybody to follow my example,—but what I have stated is a fact.

During this time, they brought me every day a great number of the products of the country for sale, probably, because they had heard that I had purchased largely at Musselinieh, and had paid well; for the people are accustomed to the right of force used by the Turks, who take every thing they please at their own prices, so that they keep all their effects concealed, (excepting at the public markets), and whoever wishes to make purchases, must sojourn for a long time in one place, before he will have gained their confidence sufficiently. The most remarkable manufactures of this country, are undoubtedly the mats formed of palm leaves, and plaited from leather straps, dyed with the most brilliant colours, which in taste and originality of pattern surpass everything of the kind produced in Europe, and are moreover very cheap. Very neat cups, vases, and saucers, are manufactured here

from a species of gourd; they are often ornamented like the Etruscan vases, with representations of animals, and some of them with great fidelity. The vessels have a feather-weight, and are yet very durable; they can be easily kept clean, and do not assume the odour of the contents they may have been previously charged with. There is no more elegant pastoral vessel for new milk than this.

On June 2nd, Giovanni returned alive from his expedition, but considerably wounded in the forehead by his own pistol, which, when he was about to fire it as a signal, burst in his hand, probably from being overcharged. He had seen everything I had commissioned him to examine; but his results were something like the investigations of philosophers, viz. that which he found out was rather of a negative than a positive nature. His narration, however, was by no means uninteresting. In Gēly (which he visited on his return, because M. Caillaud had heard that considerable ruins were situated there, and the traces of old wells on the road), there was nothing referable to antiquities to be seen, but a heap of naturally pyramidal rocks, to which Giovanni was instantly conducted by the Arabs, who regarded them as ancient pyramids,

At Gebel-Mandera he really discovered some antiquities, with a half covered cistern of considerable dimensions, situated in part on the summit of the mountain, in part at its foot. There were also in this place, the stone foundations of several walls of large buildings, with the bases of columns and other architectural remains, which render it an undoubted fact, that an ancient town formerly stood here: it does not appear to have been a large town, and is now totally destroyed. Many of the huts of the natives, now standing empty in the vicinity of the mountain, were built of the blocks of the ruins of Mandera, and in one of them my dragoman found the lower portion of a colossal statue, in granite, inserted into the wall; and in another spot a lion's head, and part of the fore-paws, beautifully sculptured in black and white granite. The distance of Mandera from Abu-Harass, he estimates, including the deviations from the direct road, at about fifty hours by caravans. The road took at first for about 16 hours a northern direction, to the mountain of Abaïtor, whence it took a turn to the east, and ran in this direction (about twice the distance from Abu-Harass to Abaïtor), to Mandera. He had ridden continually through a dense

forest to Abaitor, consisting as usual of mimosas, and a variety of acacias, and then across an open plain to a distance of five hours, before he reached Mandera, where the country again became covered with bushes. The soil, Giovanni describes as being excellent throughout, and a great portion of it is cultivated after the rainy season. He met many ostriches and antelopes in the plains, some of the latter of the size of a cow. A very high mountain, with two steep points rising in the distance, attracted his attention near Mandera. The mountain is named "*Gur*," and is situated a short day's journey to the east by south-east from Mandera; he proceeded to it through a woody country chiefly, and continued his journey to the foot of the mountain, without meeting with any antiquities. All the three isolated mountains, viz. : Dschebel-Abaitor, Dschebel-Gur, and Dschebel-Mandera, consist, according to Giovanni's account, of granite, and part of a reddish limestone; and marble is also met with. On the declivity of the *Gur* he maintains having seen a pointed piece of rock, in form of an obelisk, whose upper portion consisted of white marble, whilst the lower part was granite. I leave it to geologists to decide whether this is possible. From an

Arab he heard that there was a singular cavern in another isolated mountain, named *Libēri*, situated about five short hours' journey to the north-east of Mandera. Without returning to Mandera, he immediately set out from Gur on the road to this place, which led over tables of granite, appearing above the ground, through a country very much resembling that near the cataracts at Assuan. This cavern was worthy of inspection, for it proved to be a *speos*, 21 feet in depth, and 12 feet in breadth, in which two sitting statues were found in good preservation in the back ground, with an altar before them, in a small separate sanctuary. Traces of hieroglyphics, and of sculpture, were visible in some places, but they were very indistinct and greatly damaged, because the temple in the rock is used by the miserable inhabitants of this district, sometimes as a stable for their cattle, and sometimes as a place of refuge during the frequent predatory invasions of the Bedouins, and has frequently been burnt. On the rock of limestone of Liberi, he found, immediately above the temple, a curious quadrangular block of stone, in whose anterior surface, deep round funnel-shaped holes were drilled in regular rows. It is difficult to guess what might have been its use. My drago-

man received to numerous inquiries after further antiquities in the neighbourhood, always the answer: "that these were all, and that they knew of no others." The danger of an attack by the Arabs, appears to have been greatly exaggerated, according to oriental custom at Abu-Harass, but the tribes in that neighbourhood are always at war with the government, and with each other, consequently robberies are the order of the day ; but travellers who are well mounted and armed can always easily make their escape.

During Giovanni's sojourn at Mandera, a courier, mounted on a dromedary, arrived to announce that the Hedendowi Arabs had just devastated two villages, and plundered them, at a distance of six hours journey thence. Our adventurers, on the other hand, found a whole camp of another tribe, near Mount Liberi, deserted, with all its appurtenances, because the owners, as they subsequently heard, had fled in fear of them, being mistaken for the vanguard of a large number of Government troops.

Scarcity of water was the greatest difficulty they had to contend with throughout; and this is the less intelligible, as the large forest must undoubtedly owe its existence to subterranean moisture during the dry season. Beyond a

single brackish well, they met with no water, excepting that in the cistern at Mandera, which was not drinkable on account of the impurities and filth which had been thrown in, or fallen in by accident. My deputy described the whole journey as the most fatiguing undertaking he had ever been engaged in. He had no relaxation excepting at Mandera and Gēly; for his Arab guides would not allow him to dismount on the road, nor did they themselves dismount. Even when the dromedaries were grazing, they remained seated on them, for fear of a sudden surprise. That the whole of the country Giovanni travelled over, and probably also the peninsula of Meroe (corroborating the remarks I made on the occasion of my own excursion) was in ancient times cultivated, consequently also irrigated, and intersected by commercial roads, filled with flourishing cities, and well populated, there can be no doubt. That which is at present a desert, requires only men, industry, and capital, to be again transformed into a rich province.

As regards the situation of Mandera, I believe, in accordance with the information I obtained from my dragoman, and from the natives, that it should be placed half a degree farther

towards the south and east, than it stands in the maps* of Caillaud and Rüppel, from which almost all the others are copied.

Its true position would be, according to a sketch made by Giovanni, at 15° of northern latitude, and 32 degrees 50 minutes of eastern longitude, according to the meridian of Paris. Gēly, placed on Caillaud's map one degree to the south of Mandera, lies, on the contrary, half a degree to the north-west of it. On account of the absence of any thing like a road, my dragoon had to return to Abaitor, to get from Dschebel-Libēri to Gēly, and then had a journey of two days, by caravan, in a northern direction

* The time when this was written should be borne in mind; for since then great progress has been made, especially in Zimmerman's map of Central Africa. But still some errors are hereditary, of which the eye-witness may easily convince himself. I was pleased to see, in this new map, Mandera, for the first time (on whose authority I know not) so depicted as I have represented it; but the position of *Gely*, erroneously spelt *Kely*, remains as before wrongly marked down, as it is by Caillaud and others. Thus, also, Abu-Harass, is even on Zimmerman's map, travestied by the name of Abu-Ahrack, and the most considerable place in the province, Quad-Medina, is totally omitted.

to Gēly, which Caillaud, according to the information he collected, called Kely, but which must be the same place, as no one knows of a place of that name in a more southern direction, while Gēly, on the other hand, is well known. The peaceful inhabitants, scattered over the country, were very miserable beings, like savages. They stared with astonishment at all the European objects my dragoman had with him ; and even at the biscuits, baked in form of small loaves, from white flour at Abu-Harass, as they had never seen any thing different from their own large indigestible cakes of dourra. When he dipped this biscuit in the putrid water of the cistern of Mandera, to moisten it, he told them in joke to beware of the explosion which would take place, and all of them retired in fear to a distance of twenty paces, to secure themselves from danger. These poor people appear to be very good-natured and cheerful, if the Egyptian Government will only allow them to pass their miserable lives in peace. Only the Nomadic tribes among them, who attend very little to agriculture, become dangerous to travellers, if they are not cautious ; these dangers are, however, on the whole, greatly exaggerated. The rainy season had now completely set in,

and it was so difficult to proceed over the fat soil of the delta between the Blue and White Nile, and my health had moreover improved so little, that I was obliged to give up my project of proceeding by land to Mangara, on the Bahr-el-Abiad, (pronounced by the natives, Mandshera, which must not be mistaken for Manderah,) and from thence to return on the White Nile to Kartum. I was the more decidedly induced to take this step, as it was very uncertain whether I should be able to find a covered boat at Mandshera, and had already made sufficient experience of the inconvenience of an uncovered vessel, during this season, on the journey from Dender to Quad-Medina. It was a certain consolation to me to hear, by unanimous report, and from what I saw in my excursion to Dender, that the country from Kartum to Fazoli is quite the same, that the inhabitants neither differ in costume nor manners, and that animals and plants remain the same.

There are no more antiquities above Quad-Medina, in the direction of the Blue Nile, at least none are known. To find more of them, it would be necessary to take an eastern direction towards the Red Sea, which was in every way

an impossibility for me. In this fertile and not depopulated delta, between the White and Blue Nile, there lies the most productive mine of wealth for Mehemet Ali, if he would only undertake the junction of the rivers, by means of canals. I have some time since sent written reports to him on this subject, which he promised to take into consideration; and he appears latterly to have bestowed more attention on these countries. My collection of natural curiosities had increased to such an extent during my long stay at Abu-Harass, that half of the vessel was filled with them on my departure; and besides these, the menagerie had an increase in a Dongola entire horse, which I bought at an exhibition of Djereed exercise of the cavalry, at Quad-Medina; a pair of ibises, a singular tortoise, and two small crocodiles, not more than one foot in length, but an exact miniature portrait of those which attain thirty times that size.

On the eve of my departure, I witnessed a very characteristic scene. The Kaschefs in the Upper Sudan are generally provided with a body-guard of slaves and servants, disciplined like soldiers, which they keep without any assistance from the Government, at their own, or more properly speaking at everybody's ost.

A Kaschef from the borders of Abyssinia had been on a visit here for some days, it was indeed the same man who had made a slave-hunt on his own account into the Abyssinian territory, and carried away among the rest a priest and a relation of the powerful *major-domus* Kamfa, which circumstance had given rise to the defeat of the Egyptians, mentioned on a former occasion. He had now to appear with a heavy heart, and probably yet heavier purse, (the best excuse in the Turkish dominions) before the Governor at Kartum, and was here holding a council with his colleagues. His attendants found in this place a man who had deserted from his body-guard on a previous occasion. This man was led out into the centre of the court, where all the three Kaschefs, (for the Kaschef of Quad-Medina had also arrived) surrounded by their retinue, were lying extended on engarebs, gravely blowing the smoke from their pipes, in the cool evening breeze. Selim Kaschef instantly accosted the prisoner with harsh words, which I heard whilst leaning out of the window of my room. The culprit suddenly seized a pistol from the belt of a Kawass standing near him, and discharged it with the rapidity of lightning at his own breast. I

saw the flash but heard no report. The pistol appeared to have refused fire—the man at least was unhurt. This action so moved the heart of his master that he forgave him, and again took him into his service. In the evening I heard from my Kawass that the whole scene was got up by the comrades of the prisoner, and that the pistol was not loaded. During the reign of the *Werthers* many a lover may have gained his fair lady in a similar manner.

END OF VOL. III.

